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No. 133

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 10, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

CHINESE CYBER SPIES—AN EMERGING THREAT

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, the control of information is critical to national security. This asset was compromised as reported in the London Times AP story in the Washington Post recently, last week. It was compromised from a cyber attack against the Department of Defense's unclassified e-mail system, which included the e-mail accounts of Defense Secretary Robert Gates. While the Pentagon does not have sufficient

proof to formally make an accusation, China is the prime suspect. The responsibility is unclear, because China is home to many insecure computers and networks that hackers in other computers could use to simply disguise their locations and launch these attacks, making proper attribution difficult.

The Chinese Government replied, "It has always opposed any Internet wrecking crime, including hacking, and crack down on it according to their law." This is not true. Last June was not the first cyber attack that points back towards China. In 2005, a group with ties to China compromised secure networks from the Redstone Arsenal Military Base, to NASA, to the World Bank. In one case, the hackers stole flight planning software from the Army. The files they have obtained are not classified, but many are strategically important enough to require U.S. Government licenses for foreign use.

Experts note China's military has openly discussed using cyber attacks as a means of defeating a more powerful conventional military such as ours. In fact, other governments have also been the targets of these vicious cyber attacks. Unidentified officials in Germany and Britain reported to the media that government and military networks had been broken into by hackers backed by the Chinese Army. The Guardian reported that Chinese attackers launched online assaults on the network in Britain's Parliament, the Foreign Office, and Defense Ministry. My colleagues, last month the German weekly Der Spiegel also reported that computers at the chancellery and three ministries had been infected with so-called Trojan horse programs, which allowed an attacker to spy on information in those computers. The report, which appears on the eve of German Chancellor Merkel's visit to Beijing, said Germany's domestic intelligence agency believed hack-

ers associated with the Chinese Army might have been behind the attacks. Motives for such hacking may range from the stealing of secrets or confidential technology to probing for system weaknesses and placing hidden viruses that could be activated in case of a conflict.

The reported Pentagon attack was the most flagrant and brazen to date, said Alex Neill, an expert on the Chinese military at London's Royal United Services Institute. Quoted by the British newspaper, The Guardian, Neill said such attacks begin at least 4 years ago, and are increasing at an alarming rate.

Now, this is a substantial threat to the security of the United States and its allies. In January 2005, Japanese officials had reported that Chinese hackers were routinely attacking web sites and Internet services. According to the Korean Information Security Agency, a total of 10,628 cases of hacking were reported in the first half of the year 2004, 30 times higher than for the same period in 2003. In 2005, Chinese hackers assaulted South Korean government computers, gaining access to information concerning the country's National Assembly, Atomic Energy Research Institute, Democratic Progressive Party, and even the itinerary of the South Korean president himself.

Whether or not cyber attacks are government sponsored, China has become a growing focus of global antihacking efforts. In a report earlier this year, security software maker Symantec Corporation listed China as having the world's second largest amount of computer activity. Experts say the attacks originating in China often employ standard weaponry such as Trojan horses and worms, and many other sophisticated techniques. In some cases, hackers slip in after launching viruses to distract monitors, or coordinate multiple attacks for

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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maximum effects. China denies backing such attacks, and foreign governments have declined to openly accuse Beijing. Yet, after the threatening test of the Chinese anti-satellite weapon, the reports are further illustrations of China's pursuit of new methods of unconventional strategy. Chinese military thinkers frequently debate these strategies, including the use of attacks on satellites, financial system and computer networks. "In the information age, the influence exerted by a nuclear bomb is perhaps less than the influence exerted by a hacker," a pair of Chinese colonels wrote in a key 1999 work on asymmetrical strategies titled *Unlimited Warfare*.

We must ensure the legal authority is clear for our government agencies in tracking and responding to cyber attacks. It is vital that we swiftly detect attacks, accurately identify the source and intent, and respond forcefully against all malicious intrusions.

My colleagues, our enemy needs to know attacking our cyber space is the same as attacking our homeland, and we will respond accordingly.

THE IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized during morning-hour debate for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today is an important day in that we are going to hear the anticipated progress report, so-called, by General Petraeus, who will be testifying in a short while before the Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and the case that is going to be made is that there has been just enough progress to warrant staying the course in Iraq.

On August 6, I was in Iraq. What I learned from that visit that day was that in fact that the President's surge has failed and that there is no end in sight for the war in Iraq. I learned that first by talking with the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq that day who said that the night before that former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi had pulled his people out of the Parliament, and the week before the Sunnis had left, and then what was remaining of the Parliament was on vacation. And he said that there wasn't going to be any political settlement by this September, nor would there be by next September, and he didn't say which September.

The point of that is the reason for the surge was promoted by the President and by General Petraeus as creating the space for political settlements in Iraq, which have not only not happened but we have even seen steps backwards. But what is really important today is that people examine the so-called evidence that progress has been made, and that is why I brought a few charts here.

The first one says, is there really less violence in Iraq? Let's look at what is

counted, but, even more importantly, what isn't counted.

In the evidence that progress has been made, not counted includes Shiite on Shiite violence which is happening in the south in the Basra area, Sunni on Sunni violence. Car bombings aren't counted. And get this one, this isn't a joke. People shot in the front of the head are not counted; people shot in the back of the head are counted. I thought at first that was just an exaggerated joke. It is true. And, finally, the large-scale bombing like the one that killed 500 ethnic Yazidies in August is not counted. So clearly these numbers are very clearly cherry picked.

Then, if you look at a fact that is important to many Americans, every month in 2007, including the months, of the surge has seen more U.S. military casualties than the same month in 2006. In other words, more and more of our young men are dying. And while the Parliament was on vacation as some commentators said because, after all, it is so hot, about 120 degrees, our young men and women were fighting and dying in their body armor and helmets and heavy packs and weapons out in that 120 degree heat, dying at numbers greater than ever.

And, of course, not included in those numbers has been not only the number of U.S. troops that have died, but the dollars that have been spent. These are the dollars that we know about right now. Per year, not overall in the war, but per year \$120 million; per month \$10 million. Actually, I have heard \$12 million is the new number. Per week, over \$2 million. Per day, \$329,000. Per hour, we are doing this for 1 hour right now, almost \$14 million an hour. And over \$228,000, almost \$229,000 a minute is being spent in Iraq. And yet, the political reconciliation which was the goal of expanding the numbers of troops that we have in Iraq has not achieved that; that it has actually gone backwards. And so right now I think what we are seeing is a dog and pony show.

The good news is that a lot of people, unlike the lead-up to the war in the first place, aren't buying it. The front page of U.S.A. Today records 60 percent of Americans seek a date for a pullout: Public wary of report on Iraq, polls show. And there have been many other reports. The Jones report that says it is not working.

Check the information and be skeptical about the progress. Let's get out of Iraq.

THE IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized during morning-hour debate for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, the troop surge in Iraq has clearly failed. It has failed to achieve its purpose. The troop surge has failed not because of

our troops, but because of the failures of politicians here in Washington and in Iraq. This President's surge has been as successful as the President's boast to catch Osama bin Laden "dead or alive."

We now have three reports from entities at least somewhat independent from the Bush propaganda machine that confirm the obvious. The National Intelligence Estimate providing the thinking of the intelligence community that, instead of getting better, the situation in Iraq will get worse: "The Iraqi government will become more precarious over the next 6 to 12 months." The Independent Commission on Security Forces concluded that the Iraqi Interior Ministry is "dysfunctional." It is so bad that it cannot be fixed; they recommend that it be disbanded. The Government Accountability Office evaluated the surge, and it judged President Bush's policy using his own criteria with a clear "F," a clear failure, a fiasco, a fatal flop, with only 3 of 18 benchmarks having been met.

Today, General Petraeus can cite whatever selective statistics that his political bosses may permit him to disclose, but the facts are that each and every month this year has involved more deaths of American troops than each month, including August last year. And despite the ethnic cleansing that has already displaced 3.5 million Iraqis, the increasing violence continues to inflict an increasingly deadly toll on Iraqi families.

What is life like for those Iraqis who survive? Almost half earn less than \$1 a day; 70 percent lack access to adequate water; and 1/3 remain in dire need of emergency food aid.

When the surge was announced, the White House said "wait until the summer." And as summer approached, the White House said "wait until September." Well, now that this much overrated September is here, they cry "wait until next year."

The only real mystery about President Bush's September decision has been what new excuse he would offer to justify staying the same old deadly course. And as the American people have seen through the duplicity of each and every other excuse, the President has returned to his original ploy: 9/11, coincidentally, just as we receive this report on the anniversary of 9/11. He claims that "the same folks that are bombing . . . in Iraq are the ones who attacked us in America on September 11." That is false and he knows it is false. But fear with deception is all he has left to rationalize the pain of the many, the sacrifice of the brave, and the loss of \$3 billion every single week.

As usual, this President is dead certain and dead wrong. What he seeks is war without limits, war without end. Under his direction, General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker propose a war that continues for probably another decade, the "George Bush Trillion dollar, 15-Year War."

Now Congress must respond to the President's propaganda surge with a truth surge, with a memory surge, reminding America of the repeated false cries of "progress" and phony excuses that have only brought our families more insecurity. Congress must learn from the courage continually displayed by our troops. Appeasement will not stop these wrong-headed Administration policies. More blank checks will only drain our national treasury while fueling more death and destruction that only endangers American families.

And so today we note the surge has failed, but we respectfully and sincerely thank General Petraeus and all of our troops who serve America and are doing their jobs. But we know we must do our job. It is long past time for Congress to act. Our best hope remains a safe and orderly, fully-funded, phased redeployment that begins immediately.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, human history has witnessed down through the ages the battle of those who have nothing and those who have too much. It is the violent collision of opulence and poverty which makes the Earth tremble beneath our feet.

Lord, in our day, throw Your light of truth upon Your people; that seeing one another as brother and sister, they will not be blinded by prejudice or indifference. Rather, may all reach out with a compassion that will heal and establish mutual trust that will inspire hope in the disillusioned and even the hopeless.

May this Congress be an instrument in Your hands to mold a just and peacefully secure society, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CURRENT PATH IN IRAQ FAILING

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment over the continued lack of progress in Iraq. The sobering content in both the GAO report and the Jones report should finally be a wake-up call that some Members in this House need in order to act to bring our troops home.

The findings should make it clear to this tone-deaf Administration that our current path in Iraq is failing. The problem of sectarian violence in Iraq will not be solved by sacrificing more blood of young Americans.

After losing more than 3,500 of our brave men and women and spending close to half a trillion dollars, it is time to bring our troops home. To continue to ask our service men and women to make the ultimate sacrifice for a misguided policy is simply immoral.

GRATITUDE AND RESOLVE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, our local first responders, and our intelligence community for the incredible work they do to protect our Nation and stop the enemy overseas so we will not face them again here at home.

On the upcoming anniversary of September 11th, we must take this moment to reflect on the terrible tragedy that occurred 6 years ago, causing our response to this global war on terrorism. We must maintain our resolve against bin Laden who has declared this struggle the "third world war" with Iraq and Afghanistan as the central front.

Independent Senator JOE LIEBERMAN wrote in today's Wall Street Journal: "In Iraq we are fighting and defeating the same terrorist network that attacked us on 9/11."

We will succeed by remaining dedicated to promoting the safety of American families by denying extremists safe havens. And we are grateful to our servicemembers, professionally led by

David Petraeus, who works day and night to defend our freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

TARGET: U.S. AIR BASE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, apparently the U.S. air base at Ramstein, Germany, and the Frankfurt airport were targets last week of a foiled terrorist attack.

German authorities arrested three outlaws as they were mixing chemicals to make explosives. And guess what, all three individuals were Islamic radicals belonging to a fringe group called Islamic Jihad Union linked to al Qaeda—yet another example of criminals who kill in the name of religion and hate.

These Islamic radicals don't believe in building a better world, but believe in blowing it up. The war on terror is a global war whether we like it or not, and a fight between civilization and the uncivilized. It is a fight over life versus death. It is a fight over peace versus anarchy. It is a fight over the right to be left alone versus chaos. The international terrorists who wish to kill Americans must be tracked down wherever they are and dealt with as law and justice demands.

Those Americans who fail to acknowledge who these criminals are and have us retreat from this world conflict know little about the way the world is and seemingly live blissfully ignorant in the world of never, never land.

And that's just the way it is.

CREATE LEGACY OF PEACE

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we approach September 11, all of us have memories of that fateful day. All of us recognize that in order for our Nation to be strong and to feel secure, that not only must we be in a position to protect ourselves, but we also must cultivate friendships and relationships throughout the world.

And so I would hope as we memorialize those who gave their lives and lost their lives on September 11, that we will renew our efforts to try and make sure that we can create for ourselves and the rest of the world a more stable, peaceful environment and let that be the legacy of those who gave the last measure of devotion, their lives.

LISTEN TO GENERAL PETRAEUS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we will hear from General David Petraeus on the Iraq progress report. He is going to tell us what worked, what hasn't, and what needs to be done. And Congress should listen to the general and to Ambassador Crocker.

My position is that we should have been listening all along to our commanders and leaders on the ground, and the testimony from General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker should be heard without prejudice. They are men of impeccable credentials, and it is troubling that the antiwar liberals are already moving en masse to discredit and dismiss the testimony without even hearing a single word of what they have had to say.

The debate over the surge should be over. While much remains to be done in Iraq, there is evidence that the surge is working and stabilizing that country and improving the security situation.

Finally, the consequences of failure in Iraq are monumental. A failure in Iraq will embolden al Qaeda. They will use the nation as a launching pad for attacks. Iran will move in and fill that void. It is a monumental day in the war on terror. We should approach it with an open mind.

DISAGREE AGREEABLY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we will hear from General Petraeus today and tomorrow. I think we all need to reflect, as we will this evening in a memorial for the victims of 9/11 and a day like December 7 that will live in infamy, that while we may disagree on how we should respond to the terrorist threats that we have in the Middle East, that we should disagree in an agreeable manner because we are all Americans and no matter what position we take, we all want the best for this country. We want peace and prosperity, and we want our soldiers to be safe and to be supported.

There were heroes on the airplane in Pennsylvania who tried and did deter the terrorists from possibly attacking this building or the White House. Their motto was: "Let's roll."

As we remember them, I ask Members on both sides of the aisle if they disagree, which we will, to disagree in an agreeable way. Let's roll for the American public.

TIME FOR ORDERLY EXIT FROM IRAQ

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, since the President's escalation of the war in

Iraq began, every month we have had more and more proud, dedicated people from Fort Lewis, Washington, and their families learn they were never coming home. Those men and women have been fed into Iraq by a President whose policies in Iraq were wrong at the beginning, were wrong in the middle, and will be wrong at the end.

The fact is very clear from all of the reports that we have been reading in the last week: whether we stay 6 days or 6 weeks or 6 months or 60 years, the destiny of Iraq will be determined by the Iraqi people.

And what we have learned in this escalation is that it failed; it has failed to accomplish its design of political reconciliation in Iraq. And until the Sunnis and Shiites reconcile their interests, all of the king's horses and all the king's men are not going to put Iraq together again. It is time for an orderly exit from Iraq.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

FRANK J. GUARINI POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2467) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2467

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FRANK J. GUARINI POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, the former speaker of the house assembly in New Jersey and a distinguished Member of this body, Representative ALBIO SIRE.

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2467, which will designate the U.S. Postal Service building at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building."

Frank Guarini was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, and has served his State and country in a variety of positions. Early in his career, he was commissioned as a Naval officer at Columbia University and went on to serve in the United States Navy aboard the USS *Mount McKinley*, receiving the Naval Commendation Medal and three battle stars during World War II.

In 1965, he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate where he served for the next 7 years. On January 3, 1979, he was elected to represent New Jersey's 14th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives, completing seven terms before retiring in 1993.

As a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Frank Guarini was a true champion for education, serving as the chief sponsor of legislation that encouraged employers to provide educational assistance to its employees tax free.

Even after his retirement, Frank Guarini's commitment to education and public service has not wavered. In 1994, he established the Guarini Center for Government Affairs at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey, which strives to provide a forum for nonpartisan discussion of public policy issues and encourages today's students to take up careers in public service.

A central part of the Guarini Center's mission is to promote critical thinking and debate among the next generation of leaders at its Annual High School Oratorical Contest. The event is open to all high school students in New Jersey and throughout the tri-State area and attracts more than 100 students from 75 schools to compete each year.

I have known Frank Guarini for many years, and I can personally attest to the commitment and passion that he has for the State of New Jersey and this country.

□ 1215

I can think of no better way to honor the public service of this former New Jersey Congressman than to designate a U.S. postal office in his name.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2467 honors the life of Frank J. Guarini in naming a post office for him in his hometown of Jersey City, New Jersey. Frank J. Guarini, a former Congressman and prominent public figure, has dedicated his life to serving his country and community.

He was born in 1924 in Jersey City, New Jersey. His sense of civic duty and honor began at an early age, and as a young man, he was commissioned as a Navy officer at Columbia University. From there, he went on to serve in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS *Mount McKinley*.

After his military career ended, he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate where he served for the following seven years. In 1979, he won election to serve in the House of Representatives, where he completed seven terms before retiring in 1993.

On his return to private life, he has been active in his community and supports the library of New Jersey City University, which has been named in his honor. He is the chairman of the National Italian American Foundation, and through it, he created the Frank J. Guarini public policy forums. The forums feature local and national government leaders discussing issues such as public policy, international economy, trade and foreign affairs.

I support H.R. 2467 in the naming of the post office in Jersey City, New Jersey, for Frank J. Guarini.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 2467, which names a postal facility in Jersey City, New Jersey, after Frank Guarini.

H.R. 2467, which was introduced by Representative ALBIO SIREs on May 23, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on July 19, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire New Jersey congressional delegation.

Mr. Frank Guarini was born on August 20, 1924, in Jersey City, New Jersey. Former Congressman Guarini served his State and country in a variety of positions. Early in his career, he was commissioned as a naval officer at Columbia University and went on to serve in the United States Navy aboard the USS *Mount McKinley*.

In 1965, he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate where he served for the next 7 years. On January 3, 1979, he was elected to represent New Jersey's 14th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives, completing seven terms before retiring in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative ALBIO SIREs, for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2467, which would designate the Post Office facility located at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, NJ, as the "Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building."

Former Congressman Frank J. Guarini represented the 14th Congressional District of New Jersey for 14 years, from 1979 to 1993. He did so in an exemplary fashion, serving his constituents, and all Americans, in a way in which we should strive to attain.

Because of his intellect and work ethic he became a rising star early in his career. He was the first Representative to be appointed to the Ways and Means Committee during his first term in Congress in over 200 years.

While on this vital committee, Mr. Guarini worked to modernize our trade and tariff laws with heads of state to assure that other countries open their markets to the United States.

In recognition of this work, he received the award "for outstanding contributions to the administration of justice in International Trade Law" from the U.S. Court of International Trade.

He also served with Chairman CHARLES RANGEL and Ben Gilman on the Select Committee on Narcotic Abuse, developing expertise on drug issues and bringing about vital legislation and strategies to fight the war against drugs both here and abroad.

In addition, Mr. Guarini was a senior member of the Budget Committee, where he chaired the Task Force on Urgent Fiscal Issues. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Guarini was an outspoken advocate for fiscal responsibility and fought to provide education and job opportunities for our Nation's young while also reducing wasteful government spending.

Since his retirement from Government service, Congressman Guarini has proudly served as the National Italian-American Foundation's chairman emeritus.

As co-chair of the Italian-American Congressional Delegation, Frank and I often work together to promote Italian-American culture and traditions in the United States Congress. Just like his congressional career, he does an extraordinary job on this front.

I am proud to be the first New Jersey Member of Congress to serve on the Ways and Means Committee since Mr. Guarini's retirement in 1993.

Mr. Guarini was a great Member of this body and I am honored to call him my friend.

I would like to thank my New Jersey colleague ALBIO SIREs for introducing this resolution and honoring Mr. Guarini, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any additional speakers, but I am going to reserve for the gentleman from Idaho, and then I will close.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2467.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KENNETH T. WHALUM, SR. POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2587) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2587

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. KENNETH T. WHALUM, SR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the "Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the Representative from the State of Tennessee, the City of Memphis and surrounding areas (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2587, which would designate the postal facility at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, as the Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office building. For a man who gave so many years to this facility and to the postal service, I cannot imagine a more fitting tribute.

I'm not sure if post offices in this country have been named in honor of people who worked in those facilities. If so, there have been very few. Most are named for political figures, war heroes. Kenneth Whalum was a political figure, a clergyman of great renown, but also a man who spent a career in the postal service and was respected by the rank-and-file and rose to prominence in the postal service.

For those reasons particularly, I think it's most fitting that this building be named for this gentleman as an

inspiration to the other employees at the postal service and to the postal service nationally.

Kenneth Twigg Whalum, Sr., was born to H.D. Whalum, Sr., and Thelma Twigg Whalum March 23, 1934. His lifelong dedication and service to the people of Memphis is matched by few others. He served in the United States Navy from 1950–1954 and was a Reservist until 1959. He worked for the United States Postal Service in various human resources capacities, eventually becoming the director of personnel for the main Memphis post office and director of employee relations for the southern region. He also served in Michigan, I believe, in Representative CONYERS' district in the postal service as well. He served as a Memphis city councilman from 1988–1996.

And not only did he serve on the Memphis City Council, he was special. He's been special in everything he's ever done. He was first elected as a district councilman of the City of Memphis from the Orange Mound community, but dissatisfied with the representation of one of the at-large members, a Caucasian. Kenneth Whalum, an African American, ran for an at-large position, and he, like Myron Lowery, also African American, became the first two African Americans elected at-large to the Memphis City Council with a majority vote of the people, at a time when the City of Memphis was not majority African American.

His victory is a testament to his fortitude to give up a safe district seat to win an at-large seat, knowing that it meant more representation for issues of which he championed, and the fact that he risked his safe seat to make progress on progressive issues and put a progressive in that at-large position.

Rev. Whalum is well-respected as a man of faith in his community as well. He played a key role in convincing an alliance of local ministers to bring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to Memphis, the city, my hometown, in which we all know he would give one of his most famous, yet ultimately final speeches. In 1969, Olivet Baptist Church called upon Kenneth Whalum to serve the people as senior pastor, a position he held until 1999. During his tenure, the church thrived and grew to a membership of thousands.

I personally was in his church on many occasions. I most remember being there when J.O. Patterson, Jr., was running for mayor of the City of Memphis, a position he held temporarily in an interim appointment, and when President Bill Clinton came there and we shared the podium. President Clinton gave one of his great speeches there.

Like Dr. King, Rev. Whalum was a strong proponent of diversity in the workplace. His advocacy led to the promotion of many qualified African Americans and women to supervisory and managerial positions in the Memphis post office.

After retirement, Rev. Whalum began to experience transient ischemic at-

tacks, TIAs or ministrokes, the most recent of these occurring just a few months ago. Unfortunately, at this time, he's in a nursing facility, but he's improving. We hope he will regain all of his faculties. He's a strong man. One year he experienced 28 such TIAs, causing his family to reach out to the Stroke of Hope Foundation, which his son knew of through their work with the late Luther Vandross. Most recently, Rev. Whalum has been featured in Stroke of Hope's Survivor of the Month Spring 2007 column.

Rev. Whalum has received various honors and awards throughout his career. In the past, he has served on the board of directors of the Memphis branch of the NAACP, the Morehouse School of Religion of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, the LeMoyné-Owen College Board and was a founding board member of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. He has garnered certificates from the University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Business, United States Postal Service Advanced Management Program, as well as the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business's Executive Development Program.

I'm honored that my eight colleagues from the State of Tennessee's congressional delegation could lend their full support through cosponsoring this measure. Kenneth Whalum was a dedicated public servant in the best sense of the phrase, and the rest of us can learn a great deal from the example he set.

Rev. Whalum has a wonderful, loyal wife in Dr. Rosie Richmond Whalum, as well as three remarkable sons. Memphis has many great families, some of whom have served in this body, but no family in Memphis, Tennessee, has given the city more pride and more service than the Whalum family. All three of his sons, as he said, grew up right behind him. They enjoyed the church, and as he said, they didn't have any choice. They enjoyed the church.

Of his three sons, Dr. Kenneth Whalum, Jr., the oldest, has followed in his father's footsteps in becoming a pastor and a dedicated public servant. He's taken over the church where Dr. Whalum was the pastor, and he's a member of the Memphis City School Board. He was elected in December 2006.

His son Kirk Whalum is one of the great saxophone players in the United States of America. He's had many top hits. He played this Friday at an event which I attended for the National Academy of the Recording Arts and Sciences in Memphis in a tribute to Booker T. and the MGs who were being honored with other musicians. Kirk Whalum made that saxophone sing, as he always does. I know Steve Cropper and "Duck" Dunn were in awe of the talent exhibited there. And what was even nicer, besides the fact that Kirk Whalum played such a great saxo-

phone, as he always does, was that his son, another generation of Whalums, played the base, and they played it on "Hip Hugger" and "Green Onions," two great Booker T. songs. Kirk Whalum has played backup on saxophone for such renowned artists as Whitney Houston and others. He's come back to Memphis to serve as an artist-in-residence at the Stax Soul Academy of Music in Memphis, Tennessee.

Kevin Whalum, another son, is a talented musical artist and poet, having signed a recording contract with Rendezvous Entertainment this past February.

Like his father, Kenneth, Jr., has three sons: Kenneth, III; Kortland; and Kameron. Kevin has twin daughters: Kellen and Kaylah. And Kirk has five children: Courtney, Kori, Kyle, Kobe and Evan.

For the Whalum family and the great many people of Memphis who have benefited from his decade of public service, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. This is a family of renown and a man who has had a great impact on the City of Memphis and the postal department, and it's justifiably fitting that this building be named for him.

I would like to add that Kirk Whalum's 1996 album, "Joined at the Hip," earned him his first Grammy nomination. His 1998 release, *For You*, spent nearly two years at the top of the Billboard Contemporary Jazz Chart and yielded four Top Ten NAC hits. He earned a second Grammy nomination and critical acclaim with his self-produced album, *Hymns in the Garden* in 2000.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It's appropriate that we honor Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr., in the naming of a post office in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. He spent many years working for the United States Postal Service in various human resources capacities and eventually became the director of personnel for the main Memphis post office. He later became the director of employee relations for the southern region.

Kenneth Whalum is also an influential member of his community. He's long believed in serving the people of Memphis and did so as both a preacher and a school board commissioner.

Born and raised in Memphis, he attended Morehouse College and earned his law degree from Temple University. His strong faith and belief in public service led him to roles as a Baptist minister and school board member.

He served as a city council member from 1988 to 1996 and was elected to the school board in 1996. While on that school board, it was his goal to work toward higher standards, more opportunities and brighter futures for the students of Memphis City.

□ 1230

Upon retirement from public office, Kenneth T. Whalum plays an active role with the Stroke of Hope Foundation, which educates and supports fundraising for people suffering from

strokes and transient ischemic attacks.

It is fitting to honor Kenneth T. Whalum with the naming of this post office. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2587.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 2587, which names a postal facility in Memphis, Tennessee, after Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr.

H.R. 2587, which was introduced by Representative STEVE COHEN on June 6, 2007, was reported from the oversight committee on July 19, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Tennessee congressional delegation.

Reverend Kenneth Whalum, Sr.'s dedication and service to the people of Memphis go back many years. He was a district manager of the Michigan Postal Service before returning to Memphis as director of personnel for the Memphis Post Office. He served as a Memphis city councilman from 1988 to 1996.

Reverend Whalum is a well-respected man of faith in his community. In 1969, he became the senior pastor of Olivet Baptist Church and served until 1999.

I commend my colleague, Representative STEVE COHEN, for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of this resolution honoring this very distinguished Memphian.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2587, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A Bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, as the 'Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office Building'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELEANOR MCGOVERN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2654) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the "Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2654

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELEANOR MCGOVERN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota, shall be known and designated as the "Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from South Dakota, Representative HERSETH SANDLIN.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today in support of H.R. 2654, legislation honoring the life and legacy of Eleanor McGovern, by officially designating the post office in her hometown of Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the "Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building."

In making this essential recognition, I would also like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN, and the gentlelady from California, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, for their support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, Eleanor Stegeberg was born 1921 and raised on a farm near Woonsocket, South Dakota, during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. As with many families of that era, times were tough; but Eleanor cherished her upbringing in the small prairie town of Woonsocket, which is known for a sweet melon crop in the summer and ample pheasant hunting in the fall, as well as scenic Lake Prior, which gave the community its nickname, "the town with the beautiful lake."

Eleanor and her twin sister, Ila, were varsity debaters at Woonsocket High School. Eleanor no doubt caught the eye of her future husband George McGovern, a student at a nearby high school, by besting him in a regional debate tournament. In fact, Senator McGovern always acknowledges as much.

Eleanor graduated as salutatorian and next enrolled at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota, where she and George were fellow students and where they fell in love. The couple married on October 31, 1943, when, like so many of that generation, George was preparing to ship out for service as a B-24 bomber pilot in World War II. Eleanor gave birth to their first of five children while George was overseas.

George McGovern would go on to serve the State of South Dakota and the country in many roles: Senator, ambassador, airman, statesman, and the 1972 Democratic nominee for President. All the while, Eleanor was his strong and equal partner.

During that Presidential campaign, Eleanor blazed a trail and made headlines of her own while campaigning solo across the country for George.

Like none before her, she engaged crowds on the campaign trail with her eloquence and intelligence and was a fierce and effective advocate on a range of policy issues. Eleanor's high profile helped transform and heighten public perception of the role and value of women in politics.

Aside from politics, Eleanor worked as a tireless advocate for children and families throughout her life. She served on the boards of directors for Dakota Wesleyan University, the Psychiatric Institute Foundation, the Child Study Association, the Erickson Institute of Chicago, and Odyssey House of New York. She founded the Martha Movement and was a development officer for the Child Development Associates Consortium.

Following the tragic death of the McGoverns' daughter, Terry, in 1994, Eleanor was a passionate speaker on alcoholism, and with her family, established the McGovern Family Foundation in Washington D.C. to raise funds for alcoholism research. Eleanor and George also led a worldwide effort to combat hunger, working towards a goal of eradicating hunger by 2030.

In 2006, Dakota Wesleyan University, Eleanor and George's alma mater, launched the George and Eleanor McGovern Center for Leadership and Public Service, which offers a range of public service and leadership-centered programs for students, faculty, staff, and the national and global community.

Through this program and its annual McGovern Center Conference, the issues that George and Eleanor McGovern have championed continue to receive the attention and focus they deserve. Eleanor McGovern passed away on January 25, 2007, at the McGovern's home in Mitchell, South Dakota. She was 85.

Throughout her life, Eleanor and George formed a true partnership of shared trust and responsibilities. George commonly refers to Eleanor as his most helpful critic and most trusted adviser.

Eleanor herself wrote in her 1973 memoir, titled "Uphill: A Personal

Story” “I was determined to help with George’s career, not only by taking responsibility for the family, but by contributing ideas. In fact, I never considered it ‘George’s’ career, it was ours.”

I urge all Members to support the passage of this legislation that honors the life, works and service of an extraordinary woman and an extraordinary American, Eleanor McGovern.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This measure proposes honoring the life of Eleanor McGovern by naming the post office in Woonsocket, South Dakota, in her honor. A tireless advocate for children and families, she set a new precedent for women on the campaign trail and left a lasting mark as a passionate and eloquent speaker.

Born on November 25, 1921, in Woonsocket, South Dakota, Eleanor Stegeberg began her life-long devotion to caring for others at the tender age of 12, when she, along with her twin sister, Ila, assumed many household duties following the death of their mother. Even with all of her responsibilities at home, Mrs. McGovern was successful at school, becoming a renowned debater and a cheerleader before attending Dakota Wesleyan University.

It was in high school that she met a young George McGovern, whom she impressed by leading one of the few debate teams that was able to defeat him. Three years later, in 1943, just before he was shipped off to war, they were married.

Upon returning from service, Mr. McGovern began his 24-year career in Congress by winning a seat to represent South Dakota in the House of Representatives. However, he fell ill during his 1962 senatorial campaign, an opportunity that thrust Mrs. McGovern into the spotlight. She campaigned statewide for him, helping to secure his victory, and from then on she became a tremendous asset on the campaign circuit, either with Mr. McGovern or on her own.

Mrs. McGovern was a trailblazer in this role, opening doors for women and spouses in the election process, never more visibly than during Mr. McGovern’s unsuccessful 1972 bid for the Presidency.

Mrs. McGovern was an advocate for children, family and women’s issues during and following her husband’s political career. After the tragic death of her daughter, Theresa, she became a public face of the campaign against alcoholism.

Mrs. McGovern’s service endeavors included work for the Child Development Center and the Women’s Democratic Club, as well as serving on the boards of the Psychiatric Institute Foundation and Dakota Wesleyan.

In recognition of this outstanding record of accomplishment and service, let us pay tribute to Eleanor McGovern by naming her hometown post office in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2654, which names a postal facility in Woonsocket, South Dakota, after Eleanor McGovern.

H.R. 2654, which was introduced by Representative STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN on June 11, 2007, was reported from the oversight committee on July 19, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire South Dakota congressional delegation.

Mrs. Eleanor McGovern was the wife of former Senator George McGovern of South Dakota. She was born on November 25, 1921, in Woonsocket, South Dakota. She was the first spouse to campaign for her husband, alone, to be President of the United States beginning in 1971.

People had such confidence in her ability to articulate various issues facing the country during the early 1970s. Mrs. McGovern made a solo appearance on NBC TV’s program “Meet the Press,” answering policy questions without hesitation and in precise detail. Also she was the first, by a candidate’s wife, to appear on this show in its 25-year history.

Crowds were often moved by her speeches and drew comparisons to the former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. Some questioned whether she might do her husband more harm than good.

When asked if her campaigning was worth the risk to her husband’s Presidential bid, she replied: “I would be campaigning as strongly for him if he were not my husband. Maybe there is a risk involved, but since I have the freedom to speak, and my husband doesn’t know what I’m saying when I go around the country, he does not tell me what to say. He takes that risk.”

Mrs. Eleanor McGovern wrote a memorial about her personal life entitled “Uphill: A Personal Story.” She wrote: “I still carry a trace of bitterness about poverty. It was not ennobling for my father and grandfather to scratch out a living on land rendered barren. The poor have few choices in life.” Throughout her life, she learned to preserve and overcome life’s challenges.

Mrs. McGovern died on January 25, 2007, at the age of 85.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, during the 1972 presidential campaign, Eleanor McGovern inspired the slogan, “Put another Eleanor in the White House.”

The comparison to Eleanor Roosevelt is an appropriate one because Eleanor McGovern was a trailblazer and a truly great woman. She was an unapologetic liberal Democrat who cared deeply about people and about this planet.

She was outspoken in her support for our nation’s children—demanding more attention

and resources for early childhood development programs and better schools. She understood the importance of focusing on the needs of children beginning at birth. Had she become First Lady, this country’s education system would be much improved and our children would be much better served.

She believed we should be better stewards of our precious environment long before “mainstream America” began to worry about global warming as an issue. Having just returned from a visit to the beautiful and breathtaking Black Hills of South Dakota, I can better understand Eleanor’s love for open space and nature.

And like her husband George, Eleanor McGovern was a tireless advocate for peace. She campaigned every bit as hard as George to end the tragic war in Vietnam. She felt equally strong that the current war in Iraq was a mistake.

As one who got to know Eleanor pretty well over the years, I always enjoyed our talks and valued her insights. She loved to read and knew the issues better than most members of Congress. In fact she would have made an excellent congresswoman, U.S. Senator or even President.

Wherever Eleanor was, there were always plenty of books, magazines and newspapers. She underlined passages that held special meaning and she carefully collected magazine articles that she thought would be of use to George.

She also loved her gardens. When they lived in Washington, D.C., Eleanor treasured her small garden. She loved not only the flowers, but also the wildlife they attracted. She regularly fed the birds, raccoons and whatever else inhabited their neighborhood.

She was a loving mother who raised five incredible children. Sadly, her daughter Terry died after years of struggling with alcoholism. That terrible tragedy was heartbreaking for all of us who knew Terry, but it took a heavy toll on both Eleanor and George.

Eleanor loved George and George loved her. There is no way he would have become a U.S. Congressman or Senator or Presidential nominee without Eleanor. Her intellect, her love for this country and her respect for George were essential throughout her career.

Millions of Americans got to know and admire Eleanor in 1972. She campaigned with great enthusiasm for the McGovern-Shriver ticket—often on her own. She was not content to merely pose for pictures with her husband—instead, she gave speeches, attended rallies, appeared on political talk shows and contributed to policy discussions.

I will always believe that our country missed out by not electing George McGovern as president in 1972. It’s not just because George would have made a superb president, but also because Eleanor would have been an incredible first lady. She would have been an ambassador for all that is good and decent about our country.

I am deeply grateful to my colleague from South Dakota, STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, for her leadership in naming Postal Service facility at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota as the “Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building” and for her recognition of Eleanor’s many contributions. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2654.

In closing, let me say very simply—what this world needs is more Eleanor McGovern.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of this legislation and again commend the gentlewoman from South Dakota for its introduction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2654.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1245

ROBERT MERRILL POSTAL STATION

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2778) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle, New York, as the "Robert Merrill Postal Station".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2778

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ROBERT MERRILL POSTAL STATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Robert Merrill Postal Station".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert Merrill Postal Station".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the distinguished gentlelady from New York, who is the author of this legislation, Representative NITA LOWEY.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, which would rename the Wykagyl Post Office in New Rochelle, New York after Robert Merrill.

I want to thank Chairman WAXMAN for his support of this bill and for plac-

ing it on the suspension calendar today.

Born on June 4, 1919, Robert Merrill spent his life performing from the grand stages of the world's opera houses to Broadway and music and television. He set the standard for theatrical and musical excellence.

Robert Merrill was a favorite of U.S. Presidents, performing at the invitation of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan. He was the only singer to perform before Congress, the Cabinet and the Supreme Court, and Mrs. Roosevelt at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorial service held in the U.S. Capitol.

In 1968, President Johnson appointed him to the National Council on the Arts, and President Clinton awarded him the National Medal of Arts in 1993.

Throughout his career, Merrill performed as a soloist with every major orchestra in the United States and many of the world's great conductors, including Arturo Toscanini, Leonard Bernstein and Herbert von Karajan. His annual coast-to-coast recitals included performances at such venues as Wolf Trap, the Hollywood Bowl, Philadelphia's Mann Music Center.

Often referred to as "America's Star Spangled Baritone," he was well known for singing the "Star Spangled Banner" at Yankee Stadium. In 1969, Merrill began singing the national anthem on opening day for the New York Yankees, a tradition that continued for over 25 years.

In addition to his dedicated singing career, Robert Merrill also lent his talent and presence to community and local charities, including volunteer work at the New Rochelle Hospital and New Rochelle Public Library.

For over 50 years, Robert and his wife, Marion, made New Rochelle, New York their home and were active supporters of West Chester Community College, the West Chester Arts Council and the New Rochelle Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Merrill spread his talents and love for the arts all over the country, enriching all who experienced his performances. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this great American by passing this legislation.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We do rise today to honor a truly great artist in the field of opera. Robert Merrill, the highly acclaimed baritone singer was well known for his remarkable career with the Metropolitan Opera.

He was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, son of Polish immigrants, and he was first inspired to perform as a singer after watching a performance of Il Trovatore as a teenager. His mother guided him through his early musical training, which he paid for by working as a semiprofessional baseball pitcher.

An avid baseball fan, he became widely known for his annual singing of the national anthem at Yankee Sta-

dium on opening day and for special events, a tradition he carried on for over 30 years.

His legendary performances at the Metropolitan Opera brought him national fame and recognition in the arts and the opportunity to perform with other notable singers and entertainers.

He performed for numerous presidents, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy. Throughout his career, he performed as a soloist with some of the world's greatest conductors, made numerous recordings, and appeared at several worldwide music festivals. Outside of the stage performances, he also ventured into radio and television.

Robert Merrill enjoyed a successful career in performing music for over 30 years. His velvety smooth voice was said to have improved with every performance. He retired from the opera in 1976, and made one final performance in 1983 for its centennial.

In 1968, he was appointed to the National Council on the Arts by President Johnson and was awarded the National Medal of the Arts in 1993.

He died at the age of 85 while watching his favorite pastime, baseball, at his home in New Rochelle, New York. It is appropriate that we honor him with the naming of a post office in his beloved hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2778, which names the postal facility in New Rochelle, New York after Robert Merrill.

H.R. 2778, which was introduced by Representative NITA LOWEY on June 19, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on August 1, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire New York congressional delegation.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robert Merrill was born on June 14, 1917, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn. As a teenager, he dreamed of either playing professional baseball or becoming one of America's top singers. In 1944, he made his professional debut singing Amonasro in "Aida" on a Trenton, New Jersey stage. A year later, he signed with the Metropolitan Opera, where he would sing more than 500 performances over the course of 3 decades.

Throughout Mr. Merrill's career, he sang with popular stars ranging from Frank Sinatra to Louis Armstrong and appeared worldwide at music festivals. He performed as a soloist with many of the world's great conductors, including Leonard Bernstein.

Mr. Merrill performed for several presidents, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Harry S. Truman, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President John F. Kennedy.

He died on October 23, 2004, at the age of 85.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative NITA LOWEY, for introducing this legislation that highlights the career of one of America's most talented artists. I commend her for this introduction and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2778.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OWEN LOVEJOY PRINCETON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2825) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, Illinois, as the "Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2825

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OWEN LOVEJOY PRINCETON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2825, which

names the postal facility in Princeton, Illinois after Owen Lovejoy.

H.R. 2825, which was introduced by Representative JERRY WELLER on June 21, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on July 19, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Illinois congressional delegation.

Mr. Owen Lovejoy, the son of a Congregational minister, was born on January 16, 1811, in Albion, Maine. He graduated from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, in 1832 and studied law.

In 1836, Mr. Lovejoy was ordained as the pastor of the Congregational Church in Princeton, Illinois, a position which he held for 17 years. He was a strong opponent of slavery, and he used the pulpit to attack slavery and helped slaves gain their freedom from bondage.

In 1856, Mr. Lovejoy was elected to Congress with the help of fellow Illinoisan, Abraham Lincoln. He served four terms in the United States House of Representatives and continued his work as an abolitionist.

Mr. Lovejoy worked with Members of Congress in both Chambers to weaken slavery and attempted to achieve a measure of equality for all people regardless of race. When critics within his own Republican Party expressed fears that the former slaves were not going to live in the North if they gained their freedom, Mr. Lovejoy replied, and I quote, "Let them stay where they are and work under the stimulus of cash instead of the lash."

Mr. Lovejoy died on March 25, 1864, just 2 weeks before the introduction of the 13th amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative JERRY WELLER, for introducing this legislation, and urge swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Mr. Owen Lovejoy, who was an accomplished lawyer, Congregational Minister, abolitionist and Republican Congressman.

Mr. Lovejoy was born on January 6, 1811, in Maine, where he taught school in order to support himself while in college and law school after his father's death.

After becoming a convert to abolitionism in 1836, he studied for the ministry under his brother, Elijah Lovejoy, a well known antislavery, Presbyterian minister. Tragically, 1 year later, Elijah was murdered while trying to prevent the destruction of the printing press of an Illinois antislavery society from an angry, drunken anti-abolition mob. After his brother's murder, Mr. Lovejoy is reported to have vowed to devote himself to, quote, "the cause that has been sprinkled with my brother's blood."

After becoming a Congregational church minister, Lovejoy used the pulpit to attack slavery.

He was elected to Congress in 1856, with the support of Abraham Lincoln, and served four terms. Although he died before seeing the enactment of the 13th amendment to the Constitution, Congressman Lovejoy's legacy lives as a lifelong champion of equality.

Because of his courageous support of equality for all, regardless of race, it is fitting that we name the Princeton, Illinois Post Office in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve. I have no further speakers, so I will wait for my colleague to yield back, and then I will.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I have no further speakers, but I, again, want to commend my colleague from Illinois, Representative JERRY WELLER, for introducing this legislation.

Owen Lovejoy, in actuality, is one of the great abolitionists of his day, an individual that many people don't know nearly enough about. And so I commend Representative WELLER for making sure that he will be etched in the hearts and minds of the people in that town and in that community. I urge its passage.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2825, a bill I introduced that would name the post office in Princeton, Illinois after Owen Lovejoy. Owen Lovejoy is perhaps best known for his role in advocating for the abolition of slavery and his work with the Underground Railroad.

Owen Lovejoy was born in Albion, Maine in 1811 to Daniel, a Presbyterian minister, and Elizabeth Lovejoy. While growing up, young Owen came to admire his older brother Elijah, who taught him Latin classics when Elijah came home from college. Owen grew up to follow in his brother's footsteps by attending Bowdoin College. Unfortunately, his father died while Owen was in school, forcing him to leave Bowdoin College after 3 years.

After the death of his father, Owen moved to Illinois to live with his brother Elijah, who was the editor of an anti-slavery newspaper. During this time, Owen became a convert to abolitionism. His dedication to abolitionism grew on November 7, 1937 when an anti-abolition mob attempted to destroy Elijah's printing press. In the ensuing struggle, Elijah Lovejoy was killed by the mob. For Owen, abolitionism became "the cause that has been sprinkled with my brother's blood."

After his brother's death, Owen Lovejoy moved to Princeton, a village with a population of 200. Rev. Edward Beecher recommended him to Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, the church from which he spoke out against slavery for the next 17 years.

Owen used the pulpit to attack slavery. He also operated the "Lovejoy Line" of the Underground Railroad. His farmhouse, surrounded by 1300 acres of farmland, was one of the busiest for slaves trying to gain their freedom.

In 1854, Owen Lovejoy was elected to the Illinois legislature. Two years later, he was elected to Congress with the help of a fellow Illinoisan, Abraham Lincoln. He served four terms as the Representative to Illinois' Third

Congressional District. As a Congressman, Owen continued to work towards the abolition of slavery. Owen worked with members in both chambers in creating legislation to weaken slavery and achieve equality for all people, regardless of race.

In 1863, Owen introduced the legislative version of the Emancipation Proclamation. Sadly, he did not get the chance to see his legislation become law. On March 25, 1864, Owen Lovejoy died of Bright's disease, 2 weeks before the introduction of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. When President Lincoln heard of Lovejoy's death, he wrote,

It can be truly said of him that while he was personally ambitious he bravely endured the obscurity which the unpopularity of his principles imposed . . . To the day of his death, it would scarcely wrong any other to say, he was my most generous friend.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Owen Lovejoy for his work and determination towards abolishing slavery in America by supporting H.R. 2825.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2825.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1300

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 257) supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 257

Whereas over 37,170 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year in the United States;

Whereas pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States;

Whereas 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis, and only 5 percent survive more than 5 years, making pancreatic cancer the deadliest of any cancer;

Whereas there has been no significant improvement in survival rates in the last 25 years, and pancreatic cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages;

Whereas there are no early detection methods and minimal treatment options for pancreatic cancer;

Whereas when symptoms of pancreatic cancer generally present themselves, it is too late for an optimistic prognosis, and the average survival rate of those diagnosed with metastatic disease is only 3 to 6 months;

Whereas the incidence rate of pancreatic cancer is 40 to 50 percent higher in African Americans than in other ethnic groups;

Whereas the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) is a national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer; and

Whereas the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has requested that the Congress designate November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the Nation about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 257, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

H. Res. 257, which has 77 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative TODD PLATTS on March 20, 2007. H. Res. 257 was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States. It develops when cancerous cells form in the tissues of one's pancreas.

Pancreatic cancer spreads rapidly and is seldom detected in its early stages, which is a major reason why it is one of the leading causes of cancer death. The American Cancer Society estimated that 37,000 people will be diagnosed this year with pancreatic cancer in the United States, and about 33,000 of them will die.

I support the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in order to educate people about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventive programs.

So, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative PLATTS, for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Pancreatic cancer, the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States, is a devastating disease caused by excessive cellular growth in the pancreatic gland. Approximately 37,200 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year alone. Sadly, the average life expectancy for those diagnosed is only 3 to 6 months.

Despite the lethal nature of pancreatic cancer, research remains in the earliest scientific stages, and there are currently no identifiable early warning signs. By the time the symptoms become evident, it is almost always too late for successful treatment. While research and scientific developments have led to lower mortality rates for other types of cancer, such as cancer of the breasts, lung, prostate, and colon, the mortality rate for pancreatic cancer continues unabated.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, PanCAN, is the only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community. It focuses its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness, and education related to the development of an effective treatment and ultimately a cure.

PanCAN will once again be promoting pancreatic awareness during the month of November to educate citizens about pancreatic cancer, the need for funding, early detection methods, effective treatment, and prevention programs.

In honor of the many victims of this horrific disease and the efforts of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, I ask that the Members of Congress join me in declaring support for the goals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Maryland, the Honorable ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 257, a resolution that recognizes the goals and ideals of the National Pancreatic Awareness Month, which is in November.

Today's consideration of this legislation comes on the heels of a recent tragedy that shook the Nation and the world. Last week, Italian operatic icon Luciano Pavarotti died in his home in Modena, Italy, from pancreatic cancer. He was 71 years old.

Pavarotti's flawless, rich sound left audiences awe-struck, earning him the nickname of the "King of the High Cs." I count myself among the millions of fans who were moved by his powerful voice.

Like Enrico Caruso and Jenny Lind before him, Pavarotti's talent was recognized beyond the standard opera audience. He became a household name in the 1990s with his popular "Pavarotti and Friends" charity concerts, performing with rock stars like Elton John, Sting, and Bono.

The maestro's moving music and charismatic demeanor will be remembered for generations to come. As we celebrate the life and legacy of one of the greatest tenors the world has ever known, we must also reflect on the need to improve the diagnosis and treatment of the disease that tragically took his life, pancreatic cancer.

That is why I am a lead sponsor of H. Res. 257, which highlights the need for improved investment in pancreatic cancer research. Pavarotti might still be alive today if we had made a greater commitment to fighting this very tragic disease.

Pavarotti's story is like so many other individuals who suffer from pancreatic cancer. He was diagnosed in 2006 and underwent surgery in July of that year. Treatment failed, however, and he eventually succumbed to the disease.

Far too many Americans and people around the world find that a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer is a death sentence. Seventy-five percent of all patients with pancreatic cancer die within 12 months of diagnosis. Only 5 percent of pancreatic cancer patients survive more than 5 years, making it the deadliest of any cancer. Of the 37,170 Americans who are expected to be diagnosed in 2007, an estimated 33,000 will die this year.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States and the third leading cause of cancer death among 40- to 59-year-old men. It is a disease that disproportionately affects minorities. The incidence rate of pancreatic cancer is 40 to 50 percent higher in the African American community than in any other ethnic group.

Unfortunately, our financial commitment to the disease has not matched its impact. Only 1½ percent of the National Cancer Institute's \$4.747 billion cancer research budget for 2006 went to pancreatic cancer. No significant improvement in survival rates has been made in the last 25 years, and pancreatic cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages.

There are no early detection methods and minimal treatment options for pancreatic cancer. Sadly, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis; and the average survival rate of those diagnosed with metastasis disease is only 3 to 6 months.

This is simply unacceptable. We can do better, and we owe it to our citizens and to the legacy of the great Pavarotti to do better.

For this reason, I have joined my colleague, Congressman TODD RUSSELL PLATTS of Pennsylvania, in introducing H. Res. 257. We are also joined by 83 of our colleagues who are cosponsors of the bill. I want to thank Congressman PLATTS for his leadership on this issue, subcommittee Chairman DANNY DAVIS, and full committee Chairman HENRY WAXMAN for bringing this legislation to

the floor, and our friends on the other side.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution and to join efforts to increase Federal support for pancreatic cancer research.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for his remarks.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 257, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

By increasing awareness, we look to shine a spotlight on a disease that has historically received little attention from the Federal government: pancreatic cancer. It is the fourth most deadly cancer for both men and women, but research on pancreatic cancer is decades behind other cancers.

I was fortunate to have a group of my constituents from the 8th District of Pennsylvania teach me more about this devastating illness. They work with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and are fighting hard to raise awareness and improve patient services to beat this disease.

They told me that this year more than 37,000 Americans will be diagnosed and almost as many will die from the disease. It is difficult to recognize and with no early screening test, symptoms are often mistaken for other ailments. Because of this lack of early detection, 75 percent of those diagnosed don't survive longer than a year and only 5 percent survive more than 5 years. Pancreatic cancer shows no signs of slowing—with diagnoses and deaths increasing every year. Men and African-Americans are particularly at risk, but with no significant improvement in survival rates in the last 25 years, every American needs to be aware.

A number of treatments are in development. Patients can undergo chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, or experimental treatments such as chemotherapy drugs or vaccines. While doctors and scientists are working hard to find a cure, they need our help to fund their important research and assist in educating the public.

Mr. Speaker, with so many Americans diagnosed each year, we must act with urgency. We must increase awareness in our communities and across our country in order to intensify our focus to find a cure. Through educating the public about this quiet killer, we can increase early diagnosis and improve the prognoses and treatment of the disease. Mr. Speaker, it is time to face this disease head-on and fight back.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support House Resolution 257. This resolution will help increase awareness for pancreatic cancer, the deadliest of all cancers.

Mr. Speaker, few Americans may understand that pancreatic cancer is a horrific killer. This year alone, over 37,000 people will be diagnosed with this disease. Sadly, 99% of those diagnosed will lose their lives due to a lack of early detection tools.

Many Americans are not aware that pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all cancers; only 4 percent of patients will survive beyond 5 years after diagnosis. This is why it is a moral imperative for Congress to work to increase awareness of this deadly cancer.

I became aware of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (known as "Pan CAN") through a constituent of mine, Bob Hammen, who lost his wife to this terrible disease. Pan CAN is the only national advocacy organization which provides support for pancreatic cancer patients and their families.

In their efforts to raise awareness for pancreatic cancer, Pan CAN regards each November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. H. Res. 257 supports Pan CAN's efforts to raise the awareness which is desperately needed to improve early detection methods and treatment for this disease.

Mr. Speaker, because all of our fellow citizens have family, friends, and neighbors who are regrettably vulnerable to this dreaded disease, I urge support from my distinguished colleagues for this resolution here today.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 257, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month aims to help educate communities across our country about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs. These are important goals and ones that I support fully.

It is appalling that only 5 percent of persons diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year will reach the five year survival mark. The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN), founded in 1999, is dedicated to improving survival rates. The Network's sponsors innovative and highly acclaimed programs intended to meet the informational needs of the pancreatic cancer community. The PanCAN founders, directors, staff, donors, affiliated health care professionals, partners and volunteers are to be commended for their work and the successes they have achieved.

The instances of pancreatic cancer in Americans—indeed instances of all cancers in Americans—must be reduced and survivability rates increased. I am committed to helping achieving those goals. But achieving them is not an easy task.

For instance, as the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus' Health Task Force, I am acutely aware of the high rates of cancer infections present in the Asian and Pacific Islander American communities. I am also all too aware of the disparities that exist for and the challenges that must be overcome by individuals—especially women—from minority communities in order for them to gain access to screening and diagnostic services for all types of cancer. Moreover, I remain very concerned about the scarcity of oncology services in rural or isolated areas in the United States, such as Guam.

I am encouraged by the focus the Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month brings on the need to and importance of educating communities across our country about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs. I urge the leaders of the Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and PanCAN to work to ensure that minority communities and individuals who reside in rural and insular areas across our country benefit from these outreach efforts.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 257, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1725

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARDOZA) at 5 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 643) recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 643

Whereas on the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the heroic actions of the passengers and crew aboard United Flight 93, which ultimately led to the aircraft crashing into a rural field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, prevented the plane from being used as a weapon against America;

Whereas nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered in these attacks;

Whereas their tragic loss will never be forgotten by the people of the United States of America;

Whereas by targeting symbols of American strength and prosperity, the attacks were intended to assail the principles, values, and freedoms of the American people, to intimidate the Nation and its allies, and to weaken the national resolve;

Whereas the United States remains steadfast in its determination to defeat, disrupt, and dismantle terrorist organizations and seeks to harness all elements of national power, including its military, economic, and diplomatic might, to do so;

Whereas Congress passed, and the President signed, numerous laws to assist victims, combat terrorism, protect the Homeland, and support the members of the Armed Forces who defend American interests at home and abroad;

Whereas terrorist attacks that have occurred since September 11, 2001, in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, remind all people of the brutal intentions of the terrorists and the ever-present threat they pose to the principles of freedom, justice, and the rule of law;

Whereas the United States has worked cooperatively with the nations of the free world to confront, disrupt, and punish terrorists at home and abroad, and remains committed to building strong and effective counterterrorism alliances;

Whereas immediately following September 11, the United States Armed Forces moved swiftly against al-Qaeda and the Taliban regime, which the President and Congress had identified as enemies of America;

Whereas in doing so, brave servicemen and women left family and friends in order to defend the Nation; and

Whereas six years later, many servicemen and women remain abroad, defending the Nation from further terrorist attacks; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes September 11 as both a day to remember those taken from their families, loved ones, and fellow citizens and a day for Americans to recommit to the Nation and to each other;

(2) extends its deepest sympathies to the countless innocent victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, their families, friends, and loved ones;

(3) honors the heroic service, actions and sacrifices of first responders, law enforcement personnel, State and local officials, volunteers, and others who aided the innocent victims and, in so doing, bravely risked their own lives and health;

(4) expresses thanks and gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted and continue to stand in solidarity with the United States against terrorism in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

(5) rejects, in the strongest possible terms, any effort to confuse the war on terrorism with a war on any people or any faith;

(6) honors the heroic service, actions and the sacrifices of United States personnel, including members of the United States Armed Forces, United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service, and their families who have sacrificed much, including their lives and health, in defense of their country against terrorists and their supporters;

(7) remains resolved in its commitment to defeating terrorists and their supporters who threaten the United States and to providing the United States Armed Forces, United States intelligence agencies, and the United States diplomatic service with the resources and support to do so effectively and safely; and

(8) reaffirms that House of Representatives honors the memory of those who lost their lives as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and reaffirms its commitment to defend the people of the United States in the face of any and all future challenges.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 643.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, the Members who rise tonight to speak on this important legislation do so not as Democrats or as Republicans, but as one, as Americans united in the defense of the great Nation and the ideals for which it stands: Freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law.

Six years ago, as all of us know, on September 11, 2001, it is a day, Mr. Speaker, that none of us will ever forget as long as we live. September 11 is seared into the American consciousness, much like December 7, 1941, and November 22, 1963, as a day of infamy, a day of unspeakable horror, a day of unmitigated evil, and yes, a day of incredible heroism.

On this eve of the sixth anniversary of September 11, this resolution, jointly introduced by myself as the majority leader and by Mr. BOEHNER as the Republican leader, recognizes this as a day of remembrance and resolve.

We remember the nearly 3,000 innocent men, women and children who lost their lives on September 11. And we extend, once again, our sympathies to their families, friends, and loved ones.

We honor the courage and heroic actions, service and sacrifice of our first responders; firemen, policemen, medical personnel, as well as our valiant servicemen and women who now are in harm's way thousands of miles from this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall with me that 343 members of the New York Fire Department lost their lives on that day, in addition to the thousands of people who lost their lives in the two towers. Twenty-three New York policemen lost their lives, and 37 officers of the Port Authority of New York lost their lives on that day.

We must remember, however, that what they did, along with their colleagues in the fire department, the police department and the Port Authority Police, was saved tens of thousands of people who got out of the buildings before they collapsed. We lost people, of course, in the Pentagon as well, people from my district and districts throughout this country.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to defending the American people against any and all future challenges. I mentioned the Pentagon. I mentioned

the World Trade Center. But a plane that perhaps, Mr. Speaker, was flying towards this Capitol, or perhaps the White House, was taken down by some brave Americans who learned what was happening that day through their cell phones. And they resolved, on that day, to give the last measure of devotion to their country by giving their lives that that plane might not reach its target but crash in the fields of Pennsylvania.

□ 1730

As this resolution states, Mr. Speaker, we remain steadfast in our determination to disrupt, dismantle and defeat terrorist organizations, and we will harness all elements of our national power: military, economic, diplomatic, and, yes, moral, to effect that defeat.

In the aftermath of September 11, Americans, awakened to the threat of international terrorism, collectively declared, Never again. And, over the last 6 years, thousands of Americans have worked tirelessly to improve our Nation's security and to protect our people.

Have we done enough? No. Do we need to do more? Yes. However, this Congress has passed, and the President has signed, numerous laws to assist victims, combat terrorism, protect our homeland and to support the members of our Armed Forces who defend our interests at home and abroad.

Perhaps none of these measures has been more important than the passage this year of H.R. 1, legislation implementing the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. Among other things, this legislation requires 100 percent screening of cargo on passenger aircraft and 100 percent screening of seaborne cargo before it gets to U.S. ports. It ensures that first responders can communicate with each other, improves rail and mass transit security, and seeks to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Without question, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1 will help us harden our defenses and combat terrorism. However, no one should be mistaken: legislation alone cannot immunize our Nation from attack.

In fact, as the Chairs of the 9/11 Commission wrote just yesterday in *The Washington Post*: "Six years later, we are safer in a narrow sense: we have not been attacked, and our defenses are better." But, as they point out, Mr. Speaker: "We still have a long way to go."

It is therefore appropriate that we pass this resolution of remembrance. But it also must be a resolution of resolve that we will not allow the situation that existed on 9/11 to be maintained and, in fact, we have not. We are stronger; but as Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Kean pointed out, not yet strong enough.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, let us recognize September 11 as a solemn reminder of our vulnerability. Let us also

be reminded that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. We are the land of the free and the home of the brave, and the terrorists who sought to break our spirit only clarified our purpose and steeled our resolve. Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless our great country.

I have talked to a reporter just a few minutes ago. That reporter, Max Cacas, was listening to Leader Gephardt and Speaker HASTERT on that September 11, 2001, on the Capitol steps, state our resolve. Then, Mr. Speaker, you may recall, the Members spontaneously sang "God Bless America." It was a prayer and it was a resolve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important resolution.

I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee might manage the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio, the distinguished minority leader (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. I want to thank my colleague from Virginia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes tomorrow, September 11, as a day of remembrance. We extend the profound sympathies of this body to those who lost their loved ones in New York, at the Pentagon, and in the fields of Pennsylvania. This resolution also honors the firefighters and first responders who willingly risked or gave up their lives to save others on that fateful day. We also honor the sacrifice and heroism of our Armed Forces: the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard, and the Marine Corps. Those men and women stand on the wall of freedom, and they are bravely fighting a determined enemy in the war on terror. They deserve our respect and our backing.

I can still remember how blue and peaceful that east coast sky was the morning of September 11, 2001, and how that peace was shattered by the attacks on our country. They say every generation of Americans has its challenge. The challenge of this generation became clear to all of us on that day. It was a day that forever changed us and the way we look at the world.

America was brutally attacked without mercy and without warning. We will never, ever forget those that we lost on that day. Republicans and Democrats must work together to ensure that our children and their children never have to live through another day like September 11, 2001.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 1 minute to the distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ms. NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for bringing this resolution to the

floor, and I thank Mr. HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER for cosponsoring this very important resolution to remember what happened on 9/11 6 years ago.

On that terrible day, our country received an assault that was personal, and it was vicious. Our country responded with unity and with clarity about our resolve to fight terrorism. On a personal basis, for the families who were affected, I want to thank them, the families of 9/11, for turning their grief and their sorrow into action. They inspired our country to form a 9/11 Commission, to have the 9/11 Commission recommendations passed into law and signed by President Bush this summer. For that, all of us who care about the security of our country and the safety of our people owe those families a deep debt of gratitude. We also owe them the sympathy that their lost ones, their loved ones, will always be in our hearts.

Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, I went to Ground Zero. I saw the rebuilding that is going on at that site. It is not without great sadness that one visits that hallowed ground. It is not without remembering when some of us visited the first time 6 years ago following the tragedy. At that time, it was total silence, no speaking, no photographs, just a somber evaluation of the destruction that had been wrought and about the lives that had been lost. Today, Ground Zero is rebuilding. It is rebuilding to remember, with a memorial to remember; and it is rebuilding to say to the terrorists that they have not won.

The main goal of terrorists is to terrorize, to instill fear. They don't care about lives. They don't care about buildings. They just want to make people afraid. They want to change the way we run our country, do our business, live our lives and honor our freedoms. But if that was their goal, they certainly have failed. Whether it is at the Pentagon, where a wreath will be laid tomorrow, or it is in Pennsylvania, where we will mourn that loss forever, or whether it is in New York City at Ground Zero, the American spirit is alive and well. Again, they have lost this fight because we will not change who we are. That is what they resent. That is what we will not relent on.

So to those families, thank you. We will always, again, carry your loved ones in our hearts; but thank you for turning grief into power, into law, into a safer America. To those courageous people who rushed in, whether it was the emergency services, the police and fire, whether it was just volunteers, people off the street going in trying to help, whether it was construction companies going in trying to clear the area, to them we also say thank you for their courage at Ground Zero.

But we owe them more, as well. So I hope that in our resolve to remember and to rebuild, to honor our freedoms and to honor our people, we will understand that we must honor a responsibility we have to those who tried to

save lives at Ground Zero, who may have lost their health because of it. So in my trip to New York at Ground Zero and at City Hall, I talked to the mayor and the Governor about how we can work together in a bipartisan way to see what is fair and what can be done now so that fairness will prevail for these people, but that the message will be clear. God forbid if we are ever faced with another situation that we have a compact with our people that if we stand together, we will not stand alone if we are affected by another tragedy. It is very sad.

I thank Mr. HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER for putting together this very excellent resolution. Following the vote later this evening, we will leave the Chamber and go down the steps of the Capitol to have a vigil on the eve of 9/11. As the distinguished majority leader, Mr. HOYER, mentioned, 6 years ago, spontaneously, Members, Democrats and Republicans alike, came together and at his suggestion we sang "God Bless America." He is too modest. We will do that again tonight. We will sing that song with all the sincerity in the world. Moved by its beauty, but also committed to its words, we know that God has truly blessed America with our men and women in uniform who are fighting terrorism, with our first responders who are our first line of defense in our community in ensuring homeland security and with all Americans joined together to never forget what happened on 9/11 and never forget that we are committed to our freedoms.

So don't forget, my colleagues, following the vote on this resolution, in about another hour, let's all join together. It will be one of the first memorials to 9/11 this year, once again, on the steps of the Capitol. With that, I commend Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. HOYER.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution appropriately summons us to reaffirm the sense of urgency forged in the crumbling inferno of the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and that field in Pennsylvania. Today we fulfill our duty to remember, to honor the memory of the 2,996 martyrs who gave their lives in the earliest day of protracted struggle against godless extremism.

This resolution reminds us that we are at war and no political difference or debate can detract from the heroic work done every day by the men and women of America's military. The 184 people who gave their lives at the Pentagon 5 years ago fought on an unexpected battlefield, but toiled until the end in loyal service to the national ideals of liberty and justice. A vote for this resolution confirms our eternal debt of honor to all those who fight to defend America and advance freedom.

On 9/11, America's first responders got a bitter taste of the unwelcome battle brought to our shores. But their valor and grit carried us all through

that day and those that followed. In this resolution, we also honor and support the work of the public safety and public health professionals who work every day to protect us from terrorist attacks. Between 9/11 observances, however, distance from the tragedy of 9/11 seems to have allowed some politics to seep in to what should be wholly nonpartisan discussions of profound national security issues.

□ 1745

With each passing year, what looked hugely urgent after 9/11 tends to get smaller in the viewfinder as more current problems loom larger. While we lose sight of the threat, an enemy who relentlessly worked to transform airplanes into guided missiles is maniacally focused on other ways to harm us. Rather than using the lengthening historical horizon to elevate our perspective, we have also allowed the debate over the next step in Iraq to draw us deep into the political weeds.

As a Nation with global responsibilities, we need to climb out of the domestic political trenches and reclaim the high ground so dearly purchased 6 years ago. We do the victims of 9/11 a great disservice if we do not take bipartisan steps toward regaining a fair, far more strategic perspective.

While Iraq is undeniably an element of our post-9/11 security equation, we cannot let that effort obscure our view of the emerging threats to peace: an emboldened, nuclear Iran, a resurgent Taliban, a divided Palestinian Government, and our continued dependence on foreign oil as our economic lifeblood.

It is more than luck there hasn't been another major attack since 2001. Given the proven strength of our ideals and the moral bankruptcy of those who exalt death over life, defeat in this war can only be self-inflicted. Only if we lose patience, only if we lose faith in the universality of the yearning for freedom, only if we fail to honor the sacrifices of our countrymen, from Bunker Hill to the Twin Towers, can the purveyors of death prevail over the forces of life.

As in the almost 50-year cold war against Soviet Communism, our post-9/11 reality has to be defined by a vigilance and a willingness to use all of the instruments of national power, not just the military, to advance the cause of human freedom. That is one lesson of 9/11. Written in innocent blood, it is a lesson we can never forget.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us today a resolution whose purpose is, "Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance," extending sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, "honoring the he-

roic actions of our Nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment of defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges."

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I remember. Like millions of others in this country and around the globe, I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when I first heard the news of this hideous atrocity.

Like millions of others, I was profoundly shocked, sickened, and horrified by the scenes I saw unfolding that day. And in me there grew a cold anger. We will get those who did this, I said to myself back then. No matter how long it takes, we will defeat them. We will do everything in our power to protect the people of the United States.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, we took a major step in that direction by enacting, with bipartisan support, legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. By so doing, we addressed major security vulnerabilities, improving our homeland security across the board.

But much more needs to be done. Al Qaeda remains a serious threat to the United States. The leadership of that group has been reconstituted and the terrorists have formed many small independent cells. One such cell was broken up just within the last few days in Germany.

In order to triumph in the war of ideas with the extremists, we need to learn how best to use many forms of soft power, economic, financial, diplomatic, and cultural, which are available to us and to our allies.

We in Congress can help by making sure that the foreign operations budget is fully funded, our principle instrument of soft power. We need to stop frittering away our resources, military, diplomatic and economic, on a ceaseless religious war in Iraq.

The administration is making its case before Congress this week to stay the course in the Iraq war, which it continues cynically to conflate with the global balance struggle against fundamentalist extremism, even with the 9/11 attacks themselves. It continues to disturb me to hear the administration linking Iraq with the attacks perpetrated by Osama bin Laden and his thugs, especially when they are still at large.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that we will not forget what really happened on that dark day 6 years ago. We will not forget the victims of 9/11, or the heroic first responders who sacrificed their lives, or the fighting men and women who carried the battle to the mountains of Afghanistan and rooted out the Taliban.

We recommit ourselves today, as we have each year at this time for the past 6 years, to continue the fight against those who seek to destroy our American way of life, to deny us our constitutional rights and our freedoms.

We will not forget. We will not falter in our resolve to protect our homeland. We shall remember our heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Thank you for yielding, Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution in remembrance on the eve of September 11, the sixth anniversary of the attack on the United States. I am pleased that the committee on which I serve, the Government Reform Committee, and leadership of the House is remembering those who were lost as a result of that tragic attack on the United States.

I wanted to come out tonight to also remember those that I knew and remember, just as every American who was alive on September 11, remembers where they were and who they knew and how they were affected.

The morning of September 11 I was invited by Secretary Rumsfeld to have breakfast with him in the Pentagon. The topic of discussion, as you may recall, was a new administration working under an old budget, but we downsized the military, and the Secretary was concerned about the possibility of the United States coming under some other type of threat. How ironic.

That morning we sat and discussed that subject in the Pentagon, the morning of September 11 and what would follow. I learned, just as the Secretary of Defense learned, of the attack just a few minutes, around 9 o'clock in the morning.

The irony of that day is that being in the Pentagon, and I left shortly before the plane hit the Pentagon, that Barbara Olson, who served the Government Reform Committee, was on the plane that hit the Pentagon. I will never forget, and I am not one of these guys that is sort of sentimental, but I remember seeing Barbara at a reception. She had left the committee, but she pecked me on the cheek as she said goodbye. I will never forget that goodbye. That was the last time I saw Barbara. She was on the plane that hit the Pentagon.

In the Pentagon was Terry Lynch. I was chief of staff for then-Senator Hawkins, and he worked with Senator SHELBY from Alabama. I lost a good friend in Terry Lynch.

Seven weeks before September 11, I was invited by a fellow by the name of Neil Levin, who was legislative director for Alfonse D'Amato, to come up. I had been named the chairman of Aviation. Neil Levin had been named director of the New York Port Authority.

I spent time with Neil. We held a hearing with about 13 Members of Congress on Monday morning. We conducted a hearing in the World Trade Center hearing room. Afterwards Neil took me, my wife, and I think two or three other Members and their spouses that accompanied us for that occasion.

In the Windows on the World restaurant, on the side, the New York

Port Authority had a little reception in the dining room, and Neil hosted lunch for my wife and myself after that hearing. Neil and just about everyone who helped us with that hearing 7 weeks before happened to be in that same dining room the morning of September 11, and all of them were killed.

I remember tonight Neil Levin, his family, his wife, those he left behind, and everyone who was with us as I left them in that room where they all died. The only one who survived was Bill Dakota, the airport director, who was at a conference in Montreal.

So tonight has a meaning I wanted to leave on the RECORD of the House of Representatives. I remember each and every one of those individuals.

I stood with my wife at Shanksville just a few weeks ago. I had not been there before. We remembered those great heroes.

I might say in closing, those of Flight 93, the first responders, all those who helped in America's darkest hour, we saw our brightest and our shining heroes. With this resolution tonight, we remember all of them.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank my friend from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I was not here in Washington 6 years ago this evening. I was stuck in New York. Because of such bad weather, we couldn't get out of New York. I was forced to be on a plane the next morning. At 9:10 in the morning I was two planes from take-off at La Guardia, speaking about the Port Authority of New York, when we were informed the plane would be turned around and brought back to the terminal because of the attacks of two planes on the World Trade Center in New York.

In many respects my thoughts are, life goes on. We see it all around us. Life does go on, but it doesn't diminish the loss that we all suffered on that fateful day 6 years ago, as a Nation, as to me as a New Yorker, more personally for me, as my first cousin Battalion Chief John Moran who was killed that day.

Though on that day we saw the ugliest side of humankind, we also saw the brilliance of the human spirit, of the American spirit, and, if you allow me to say, the spirit of New York. We more than pulled through since that day 6 years ago. We see it today in the eyes and the faces of our servicemen and women who today around the world defend our freedoms.

But I, for one, am not satisfied that Osama bin Laden is being hunted like a dog and is living in a cave somewhere in Afghanistan or Pakistan. I, for one, believe that 6 years is long enough to have let this animal roam freely in those areas.

We need to bring that man to justice and all those who are responsible for

this, that vicious attack on our country that day. We, as Americans, should not lose sight of that or be distracted. We need to find Osama bin Laden and all those responsible for the attack that day and bring them to justice.

□ 1800

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my chairman, now ranking member, yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, 9/11 was a wake-up call from hell. We all know how we reacted to it, but the weeks that followed for those of us in the greater New York area had special meaning. It was a very poignant time.

I think of the family of Joe Coppo whose son, Joseph, said good-bye to him. And he talked about his dad and he said: Dad, you wanted me to become an adult. This is a young man now in college, and he told us of all of the things he said that his dad wanted him to learn. And then he said: Dad I have learned from you, and don't worry, I'll be there to take care of Mom.

Or the next week in the same church, Frank Fechet in talking about his son, Brad, and all of the things that he wanted him to learn and then he said: But, son, I learned far more from you than you ever learned from me.

Or going to a service in Easton, Connecticut, at a small old church. It was built hundreds of years ago. Everybody couldn't fit in. It was a beautiful, sunny day and they were talking about a father, mother, and a precious 3-year-old child. They talked about the father and the mother, and then they had the nursery school where this 3-year-old child went, they had the teachers come and talk about this young child in a very precious way and then had us sing one of her favorite songs. When I left, the parents wanted to see me; and they said this can't be about anger and hate. They were lecturing me about what it couldn't be, and I was thinking I needed to tell them how much we cared for them.

Or a family a week later, Neal and Jean Coleman, saying good-bye to two sons, Scott and Keith. It was a candlelight vigil and they talked about the sons. When it was over, the parents insisted on seeing me. They knew I was there. I tried to kind of just leave and not be too much of a presence. They said to me: this cannot be about anger and hate.

Well, it is not about anger and hate. But it is a wake-up call. There is more than one inconvenient truth that confronts us. There is the one that Al Gore talks about. We could probably think of others. But there is one that the 9/11 Commission talks about. The one that the 9/11 Commission talks about is Islamic terrorists who would do us harm at home and abroad. That's a wake-up call. It is an inconvenient truth.

We are confronting these Islamic terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Europe, in Asia, in North and South

America. We are going to confront them, but it is a very inconvenient truth.

One thing that the 9/11 families asked us for is please pay attention to this. Detect, prevent, preempt. Don't let them attack us again. Those are things that require us to have powers like the PATRIOT Act, like a FISA law that works and isn't a meaningless law and one that prevents us from getting at these terrorists.

So there are a lot of lessons here that I think we can learn. I just would conclude by saying all of us are united in wanting to confront Islamic terrorists, but that means we need to be united in terms of what we do in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world about the FISA law. Just as we lecture the Iraqis about how they need to come together, we need to do a better job of coming together.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to my good friend from Georgia, the civil rights conscience of the Congress, JOHN LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the chairman, Mr. LANTOS, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember what happened at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon 6 years ago tomorrow. Just as it was 6 years ago, it is still unreal. It is still shocking. It is still unbelievable, but it did happen.

Today we continue to remember the brave firefighters, the police officers, the doctors, nurses and all of the emergency medical personnel and rescue workers and private citizens who lost their lives that day, and those who gave their lives trying to save others. Together as one Nation we remember again those we have lost.

Today we remember again the families and the loved ones of the victims at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the families of those who perished in Pennsylvania who prevented another vicious attack and saved countless lives here in Washington on that day.

Today we pray that the grace of God be with us and all who mourn. We pray that God will continue to give us the strength to carry on and continue to do his work. And we pray today for peace in our world, peace in America and peace in our hearts and souls.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution today.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution marking the sixth anniversary of this vicious attack on America.

It was 6 years ago tomorrow when our Nation was irrevocably changed as the tragedy struck in the streets of Lower Manhattan, the fields of Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon.

Six years later, the pain and anger remain fresh. We still miss those lost

on that day, and we are still grateful for the heroes who faced danger on that day.

When the day was over and as we learned of the loss of nearly 3,000 Americans, including 700 New Jerseyans, just about 100 from my district in one small town, 20 or more were killed, 12 from the same church, we knew our Nation had been changed forever.

But amidst the tragedy, we also saw the best of our Nation, neighbors and friends consoling one another, Americans from all walks of life standing united side by side waving the Stars and Stripes and lighting candles to honor those missing or lost.

And while our Nation still faces challenges and still grapples with the aftermath of these attacks, we draw strength from the knowledge that the character and resolve of America is still strong 6 years later.

Today, on the eve of the sixth anniversary of this tragedy as a Nation, we remember all those we lost. We embrace those who remain, the families of those victims, and we honor those who serve on our behalf in places like Afghanistan and Iraq and do it on a hellish environment on our behalf. And we honor our firefighters, our police officers and our emergency personnel. We bless them for their work. We will never forget September 11, 2001.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1 minute to my dear friend and our distinguished colleague from Rhode Island, Congressman JAMES LANGEVIN.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in somber recognition of the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. I join all Americans in mourning those who lost their lives and in remembering their families.

We can best honor their memory by ensuring that they did not die in vain. We took a significant step towards that goal by passing comprehensive legislation to implement the remaining 9/11 Commission recommendations. However, while we are safer, we are not yet safe.

To combat terrorism, we must think comprehensively and coordinate our efforts into a unified approach. That is why I have introduced legislation requiring government agencies to collaborate on national security goals. This Quadrennial National Security Review that I have called for will ensure that we use all assets of national power, military, diplomatic, economic and others, to protect the American people.

I commend Chairman LANTOS and thank him for his comments on this issue and for cosponsoring this legislation. I commend Majority Leader HOYER on this resolution that is before us tonight to honor those that we lost 6 years ago and for his efforts to protect our Nation. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time

to my distinguished colleague from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1½ minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened to stand here today on the House floor. No Member envies speaking about the attacks on America that killed 3,000 of our citizens, but I feel it is extremely important that we take time to speak out in remembrance of their lives.

I don't know if you can see this pin, Mr. Speaker, but I have worn this pin since 9/11 on the 11th day of every month. It has firefighters erecting a flag over the World Trade Center. It was given to me by Florida firefighters who joined their colleagues in New York after 9/11.

Every time I put this pin on, I am reminded of the horrors of that September day 6 years ago, as well as the challenges that our Nation faces from terrorist threats around the globe. We all remember the bravery and dedication of so many individuals in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on New York City and on the Pentagon, and the failed attempt where the plane landed in Pennsylvania. Thousands of policemen, firemen, EMTs, doctors, nurses and everyday citizens rushed into harm's way to help their fellow man. Many of these retired police and firemen and doctors have moved down to my area in Florida.

With passage of the resolution before us today, these heroes will be remembered by every Member of Congress and be recognized for their outstanding efforts.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to my good friend and distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE).

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victims and the heroes of September 11. To the families, I offer my deepest sympathies for your loss. I would also like to salute the first responders who bravely sacrificed their lives.

The attacks of September 11 were a wake-up call for all of our Nation. Never before had our vulnerability to attack been so apparent.

Today, as we continue to rebuild, we stand united in our resolve to protect this Nation from further threats. This new Democratic majority implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, a critical step towards ensuring the security and safety of the American people. May all of us pause in our own way to remember the sacrifices of so many of our fellow Americans, and may God always hold each and every one of them in arms of love.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to my good friend and distinguished colleague from Tennessee, Mr. STEVE COHEN.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow will be 6 years. Everybody knows where they were 6 years ago, as everybody of my generation knows where they were

when President Kennedy died and everybody of the previous generation knows where they were on December 7, 1941, a day that will live in infamy.

September 11, 2001, is a day that will live in infamy. We survived that as a country. We are together in fighting terrorism, and we are together in support for this great country and democracy.

We have differences of opinion on how best to go about preserving our great country, our homeland security and defeating the terrorists; but people on both sides of the aisle are Americans. People in this Hall are patriotic. Although we have differences in how we analyze data and information given us by different officials and see events in different ways, we all see them with the same eventual outcome, and that is to hope that we have peace and prosperity here in this country and throughout the world.

In conclusion, I take a moment to honor the people who were so heroic in Pennsylvania and remember their words: Let's roll.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California controls 7 minutes. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield half of my time to our Republican colleagues if they need it.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this point but am expecting a speaker.

Mr. LANTOS. I am pleased to yield 1 minute to my dear friend and our distinguished colleague from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

□ 1815

Mrs. LOWEY. I thank the chairman. Six years after the worst tragedy in our Nation's history, the pain that we all feel is still fresh. We remember the victims of this senseless attack, the parents, the siblings, spouses, children, friends, neighbors and coworkers, who lost their lives on September 11 for no reason other than an ideology of hatred directed at our country, at our values and our way of life.

We hold a special place in our hearts for the men, women and children that died that day. The victims' friends and families are in our thoughts and prayers that they may find comfort by focusing on the blessings of the lives of the victims rather than on the tragedy of their deaths.

In Congress and in the administration, it is our solemn duty to honor those who died on September 11 by implementing the policies, both at home and abroad, that will protect our citizens and our country and help others to avoid the devastation that results from losing a loved one.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia will control 3½ minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) as much time as he may consume.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate very much my colleague yielding me this time. Very much I appreciate their making this effort to recognize and remember those people who lost their lives on 9/11 6 years ago.

I couldn't help, as I listened to the discussion today, to remember ironically that the Defense Subcommittee of Appropriations was meeting, with full membership from both sides of the aisle, just downstairs from the Chamber.

At the time the plane crashed in Pennsylvania in that open lot, with us was JOHN MURTHA of Pennsylvania. It was in his district where that plane crashed. The irony, as many know but I cannot help to mention it, that JOHN MURTHA is the chairman of the subcommittee at this very moment. At the time, we together recognized that the most important work of the Appropriations Committee perhaps takes place in that committee room, the Defense Subcommittee room.

And in this circumstance, when that plane crashed, which indeed likely was headed for the Capitol, that's the best speculation, if the Pennsylvania crash had hit the Capitol, we might very well have lost that entire committee. There are ironies in all of this.

As we remember those who lost their lives, let us remember the threat of terror to our very way of life is taking place around the world.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we are happy to yield back our time, and we are standing united across the political spectrum in our remembrance and in our determination; remembrance of the heroes and the victims, and determination that we shall defend this Nation against all enemies.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that will recognize tomorrow, September 11, 2007 as a national Day of Remembrance. I want to join all of my colleagues in extending our sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

None of us will forget that horrific day 6 years ago when, in the face of this Nation's worst tragedy, America pulled together to reaffirm our commitment to freedom and democracy.

We will also never forget the heroic actions of our first responders who risked and sacrificed their lives to save their fellow Americans on that day. Yet our first responders were not the only heroes that day.

Office workers, airplane passengers, and ordinary citizens also showed the true spirit of America by assisting their co-workers to evacuate burning buildings and preventing a hijacked plane from being used as a weapon against our country.

Finally, I commend the heroic service provided by our Armed Services in battling the forces of terrorism around the world.

Whether the mission is engaging al Qaeda and the Taliban in the mountains of Afghanistan or transporting food and shelter to victims of the tsunami near Indonesia, our military has proved again and again to be worthy of our praise and admiration. At great risk to their own personal safety, our service members have bravely acted on our behalf to protect our national security and to build goodwill throughout the world.

As Members of Congress, we debate the issues confronting our Nation on a daily basis. By supporting this resolution, however, I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in reaffirming our commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am missing today's vote on the resolution recognizing September 11, 2001 as a day of remembrance as well as the September 11 remembrance ceremony this evening.

I am currently on a Congressional Delegation to the Middle East to observe the tribal areas along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the 9/11 hijackers were trained, and where key al Qaeda bases and some of al Qaeda's most dangerous leaders are still operating, to learn more about the progress we are making in eradicating terror cells in the region.

Touring this region on the anniversary of this tragic day in our Nation's history is a powerful reminder of the valor and sacrifices of our men and women on the ground in Afghanistan who put themselves in harm's way every day to protect our country and our people.

On this day, Mr. Speaker, as we continue to heal from September 11, 2001, we remember those lost on that day, the heroism of our first responders, and the spirit of unity and patriotism this tragedy ignited in our country. Let us honor those lost by continuing to work together to protect and defend liberty, tolerance, and democracy.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 643, the September 11 resolution. I honor the memory of those who died on September 11 and extend sympathies to their family members and to those who lost their lives trying to save lives. And I support the troops.

I believe the best way to honor the memory of those who died on September 11 is to tell the truth of what the Administration did in the wake of September 11. The Bush Administration launched a war against Iraq, conflating the true tragedy of September 11 with lies about weapons of mass destruction.

On this, the sixth anniversary of September 11, it is important that Congress wake up to the truth and exercise its obligation under the Constitution to save our nation from being destroyed from the lies that took us into Iraq, the lies that keep us there, the lies that are being used to set the stage for war against Iran and the lies that have undermined our basic civil liberties here at home. The September 11 resolution that Congress considers today should have made reference to those matters. It does not, so I cannot support it.

This Administration long ago politicized the September 11 attacks, distorted it, and dishonored it. If Congress really wanted to honor the memory of those who died on September 11, we would cause the full truth to be told to the American people. If Congress really supported our troops we would bring them home and not provide more funding for the war.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered when Islamic terrorists hijacked and crashed four civilian aircraft.

This resolution recognizes September 11 as both a day to remember those taken from their families and loved ones—and a day for Americans to recommit to the nation and to each other.

We pay tribute to the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of first responders, law enforcement personnel, state and local officials, volunteers, and others who aided the innocent victims and bravely risked their own lives and health.

And we rise to give thanks to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted and continue to stand in solidarity with the United States against terrorism in the aftermath of these terrible attacks.

Mr. Speaker, we will never forget those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The House remains committed to defeating terrorists and their supporters who threaten the United States and to providing our armed forces with the resources and support to do so effectively and safely.

Let us honor the victims of 9/11, and reaffirm our commitment to defending America from those who would do us harm.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on the sixth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, I am honored and humbled to support a resolution to honor the victims of that terrible day. I ask that this House also pause to honor America's troops, who even now risk their lives to prevent the horror of September 11th from ever striking again, and our first responders, who willingly face danger to protect our safety.

On September 11th, our Nation experienced a grief broader than any we'd known before, one that reached beyond individuals and families, beyond even cities and states. For a few weeks in 2001, our country was united in mourning. We grieved for 3,000 souls abruptly taken, for a Nation forever changed, for an innocence forever lost.

Tragedy has a way of bringing people together. It doesn't minimize our differences; it magnifies what we have in common. It reminds us that, above all else, we are all Americans. As the days since September 11th continue to tick by, I hope we remember not only the grief of that day but also that extraordinary sense of community. Even 6 years later, we still grieve together for our fallen. We still pray together for our soldiers. We are—and will remain—one Nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

I support the resolution that so eloquently states the House of Representatives gratitude for those that protect us and remind us never to forget that terrible day.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the over 3,000 victims who died in the September 11 attacks on America; and I wish to pay tribute to all the family members of those who perished, as well as to our public officials, businesses, and private citizens who have dedicated themselves to the rebuilding of a stronger Nation.

As we contemplate the effects of September 11th and extend our deepest sympathy to those who lost their loved ones on that fateful

day, let us resolve to build not just a more vigilant and stronger homeland defense, but a society that continues to protect our personal freedoms and would enable us to fulfill the American dream of liberty and justice for all.

And in pursuit of this goal, let us, Mr. Speaker, continue to be able to sing: "O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain. America, America, God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

God bless America.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 was truly one of America's darkest days. Terrorists using airplanes as weapons brought unimaginable horror to our homeland. Yet in the face of such tragedy, heroes emerged. Police officers, firefighters, emergency personnel and countless other American patriots helped their fellow countrymen survive that day and continue to make sure we never forget those lost that day. These American heroes brought out the best in human nature in response to an attack that brought out the worst in human nature.

Since coming to Congress, I've had the great pleasure to work closely with two of these American heroes. Peter Gadiel and Joan Molinaro, united by the loss of their children who fell victim on that fateful day and the great anger over why this Nation couldn't stop it from happening, joined together and helped create an organization called 9/11 Families for a Secure America to help right the wrong that allowed terrorists to kill over 3,000 Americans 6 years ago.

Peter and Joan carry with them the voice of their children everyday, in everything they do, to ensure another tragedy of this magnitude never happens again to another son, daughter, father, mother, husband, or wife.

It is the purpose of 9/11 Families for a Secure America to inform and educate the American public, elected officials and legislators of the obvious and not so obvious shortcomings in our Nation's security. To focus their attention on the dangers of unsecured borders and lax immigration enforcement. They make sure the public understands that illegal immigration and terrorism are inseparable issues. The ultimate goal of 9/11 Families for a Secure America is to prevent future terrorist attacks and to secure our Nation for generations to come because terrorists cannot plan and carry out attacks in the United States if they are unable to enter the country.

As we recognize and give remembrance to all those that lost their life on September 11, 2001, let's not forget the loved ones of these victims and the pain and sacrifice they've had to endure from their loss. Let's honor heroes like Peter Gadiel and Joan Molinaro who work tirelessly to ensure that another terrorist attack never happens again to another of America's children.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America.

Though it has been six years since that fateful day, time cannot diminish the memories of those lost. Six years ago tomorrow, America was struck by an unspeakable tragedy that shook the foundations of our society and changed our Nation forever. On September 11, 2001, we saw the very face of evil. And on

that day and every day since, we have felt the heartbeat of America.

The people of this country responded as never before, and our government also responded. We have been reminded of the service and sacrifice of Americans who are ordinary and extraordinary at the same time. Americans from all corners of our country and in North Carolina have given of themselves to help the victims' families. Our neighbors and friends have been deployed to Afghanistan and elsewhere to fight for our freedom. Our police officers, firefighters, EMS and other first responders have shown selfless devotion every day on our streets and in our communities.

I applaud all of those who are serving or who have served in defense of America and our interests. They have responded with professionalism, precision and when needed, force, to root out the cowardly perpetrators and protect Americans and our interests both here and abroad. Let us continue to pray for the safe return of those who are still in harm's way and honor and thank those who have given their lives.

We also must honor those thousands of innocent people who lost their lives that day and remember the bravery and sacrifice of the fire fighters, law enforcement officers and rescue workers who worked feverishly to save them, some of whom still suffer ill effects from that effort. Though somewhat eased by the passage of time, the grief of a nation still smolders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow will mark six years to a day of inconceivable terror and grief brought upon our nation by the very worst acts of humankind. It was also a day where we witnessed the very best of America. We saw first responders entering buildings to save their fellow citizens knowing full well that their lives were in danger, yet doing so without reservation. We saw concerned Americans standing in lines to donate blood for their fallen neighbors. We saw our nation come together with one voice and one spirit, in that day of terror we saw our Nation more united than any point in our history.

Our hearts go out to the families of all the victims of that terrible day. We will forever remain saddened by the tragic loss of human life. What happened to our Nation six years ago was an unspeakable act of war on the very foundation of what makes us American. What happened on that day was an assault on thousands of innocent people who were enjoying the very freedom we hold so dear.

Truly, we mourn the victims of September 11th, but today, six years after those attacks we can also celebrate the lives of those who were lost to us on that fateful day. They were truly representative of the diversity and richness of character in our Nation. The victims of September 11th hailed from almost every state in our union, they came from countries throughout the globe, emblematic of the rich tapestry that is the hallmark of our people. On that day, those victims and indeed all of us, were not divided along racial or religious lines, on that day more than any other, we were Americans united by our common values of life, liberty and justice.

Six years ago tomorrow our first responders struck the first blow in the War on Terror. By refusing to consider their lives before others,

they drew a stark contrast to the terrorists of September 11th who refused to even value their own lives before taking the lives of so many innocent human beings. Those first responders refused to bow to the fear that the terrorists hoped to instill in our minds on that day. They refused to despair in the face of the greatest attack upon our Nation, instead they charged forward. They not only saved lives on that day, but their selfless acts inspired the psyche of every American, their acts of heroism inspired our nation to action.

Now six years later from September 11th, I fear we have lost much of the unity that came to define that day. Truly the heroism of September 11th continues today, with more than 3,800 Americans who have given their lives fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But at home we have allowed politics to come between us, we have allowed ourselves to be divided in the face of a continuing War on Terror. But I remain hopeful that the spirit we saw on September 11th is still present in all of us. We must rekindle the firm resolve we had on that day, it was a resolve not simply founded by the attacks upon our nation by a group of terrorists, but built by our collective belief in the greatness of our nation and its ideals. We must remain a beacon for freedom and integrity throughout the world, but all efforts must start at home. Six years ago we suffered the worst day of our collective lives, but I hope that today we have turned the pain of September 11th into a new calling for our Nation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, in 1774, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them." Though our nation had yet to be formed, a sense of unity was already ingrained in the hearts and minds of future Americans. Beginning during our Nation's formative years and continuing today, many have looked to us in awe, inspired by the strength of our sense of patriotism, particularly in the face of adversity and animosity.

Six years ago, the world watched in horror as tragedy struck in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. From the moment the first airplane struck the first tower, America was changed. We were awakened to a new sense of vulnerability that continues to shape our nation. But what we have learned from this tragic experience extends beyond those early hours of shock and uncertainty.

September 11th brought momentarily to the forefront those anonymous heroes who stand among us every day. From the firefighters who died in the line of duty, to the airline passengers who fought back, to the bystanders who put aside their own fears and sprang into action, a new generation saw firsthand the incredible power of the American spirit.

Across the country, strangers became neighbors and communities became families. Drawn together in fear and confusion, the American people found solace and comfort in their fellow man. Their selfless acts turned one of our nation's darkest days into one of our Nation's finest hours. And today, we are stronger because of it.

As we pause to remember the lives that were lost on September 11th, we must give thanks to the doctors, nurses, first-responders, National Guardsmen, and American troops who spend each day protecting liberty at home and abroad. These brave men and women put their lives on the line in noble

service to our country. Their generosity, compassion, and determination embody the values our Founding Fathers fought to safeguard more than 200 years ago.

On September 11, 2001, our nation was brought to its knees with grief. But on September 12, we rose again, and stood united. In a few tragic hours, America said goodbye to 2,998 friends and family members, but, with a reawakened American spirit, we welcomed 281 million strangers into our homes and our hearts.

I can think of no more fitting tribute to the lives that were lost on that sad September day than to take this time, on this day, to remember the best of America and to renew our commitment to ensuring that no force will ever "destroy or disjoin" us.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it has been six years since September 11, 2001 when radical Islamic terrorists attacked and murdered nearly 3,000 of our fellow Americans.

On that horrible day the seriousness of the terrorist's war against us became clear. Because of their hatred of our freedom and liberty—these deranged individuals would murder innocent men, women and children to make their point.

On that day our hearts were broken—and for many who lost friends and loved ones on that fateful day their hearts will never be mended.

In the days immediately following 9/11 our nation was unified.

Unified in the resolve to strike back against those who murdered our fellow Americans.

Unified to do what was necessary to defend our citizens from future attacks.

Unified to defend our freedom and to stamp out those who would seek to take it from us.

Unfortunately, since that time our unity has faded, but the danger has not.

The terrorist's war against us is not about a single American President or ideology. The focus of the terrorist's hatred is every American.

On this sixth anniversary of that horrific day every American should reflect upon that day and its place in our nation's history.

One thing is certain—freedom is not free. And free people face a constant challenge to preserve that freedom.

The terrorist's war against us is a profound test of our ability to preserve the liberty we hold so dear. Our commitment to meet that challenge must rise above petty politics. We must return to the unity of the days following 9/11 because this war is long from over and the danger is real.

I have no doubts about the capabilities of our great nation.

We threw off tyranny to proclaim our independence behind the idea that all men are created equal.

We made that idea a reality by fighting a civil war to bring freedom to every American.

We sustained our freedom through two world wars and a cold war.

Through it all America has stood tall.

America has stood for freedom.

And just as we stood together on 9/11 we must stand together today to ensure that the horrors of that day become even more distant memories and the future is a place where every American can enjoy the benefits of our hard won and tenaciously defended freedom.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the eve of the 6th anniversary of the ter-

rorist attacks against the United States of America that occurred on September 11, 2001, in support of House Resolution 643, and to join my colleagues in mourning the victims of those attacks and to commend all of those who displayed courage and heroism in the face of such a catastrophe that day and in the days that followed.

Residents of New York City, Arlington, Virginia, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, awoke six years ago to a day marked by cloudless, blue skies and fair, late-summer weather. Within hours, Americans—joined by citizens of virtually all of the world's countries—witnessed the senseless killing of over 3,000 innocent victims in the most horrific terrorist attack in modern history.

Today, we remember those who perished on September 11, 2001. In doing so, we offer our continued support and heartfelt prayers to their families and loved ones. We also offer our deepest compassion and understanding to those individuals who bear the physical, mental, and emotional scars of having survived the attacks. We remember the victims, the survivors, the first responders, and the families touched by these tragedies. We remember, and we resolve to always carry the lessons of 9/11 as we work to prevent another attack and to bring justice to all who are responsible for perpetrating this act of terrorism.

The people of Guam join our fellow citizens across the country in recognizing tomorrow as a Day of Remembrance.

God Bless the United States. God Bless Guam.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 643. I support this resolution because although six years have passed since that fateful, horrific day, the pain and agony and sense of loss still endures in the hearts and minds of the American people. More than 3,000 of our countrymen had the fullness of their lives snatched away from their families, their friends, and the communities they loved and that loved them. We can never forget what happened that day to the victims. Or to those who sacrificed their lives to save them. Or to our country, which suffered a wound to the body politic unlike any in previous history. And in remembering what happened to us six years ago, we are reminded what we must do now and in the future to redeem all of the lives lost that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, the Nation watched in horror as the World Trade Center was transformed into a human inferno that claimed thousands of innocent lives. 9/11 was a despicable act of faceless cowards who have no respect for human life. Across the United States and around the world, people of all ages and walks of life collectively united during a time of tremendous sorrow and despair. It was an unforgettable day that transformed the lives of many and united Americans in a way this Nation had not seen since World War II.

Mr. Speaker, during this commemoration Americans turn toward each other. We seek to embrace, we seek to love, we still mourn the nearly 3,000 Americans whose lives were viciously taken on September 11, 2001. I stand before this House today simply to offer my deepest sympathy and that of my constituents of the 18th Congressional District of the State of Texas.

Six years ago, in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on our country, many brave people

heroically, tirelessly, and courageously participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, in many cases voluntarily putting their own well-being at risk. Others jeopardized their lives to bring the terrorist to justice or to bring justice to the terrorized.

The war in Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom was a just war. An attack on one, was an attack on all. It was an attack on our way of life. It was an attack on our deepest and most cherished beliefs. It was an attack on the freedom and liberty embedded in the foundation of this Nation. Since that memorable day our war efforts have been deferred from its original purpose and many lives lost have yet to receive justice. Six years later and Osama bin Laden still roams free. American blood and treasure are being depleted for a country unyielding to change.

As Operation Enduring Freedom showed, a united America can never be defeated. The indomitable Armed Forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan and was hard on the heels of Osama bin Laden, who was trapped in Tora Bora. But before they could bring this mass murderer to justice, they were inexplicably diverted to Iraq, where the President had launched a new war against an enemy that posed no immediate threat to the security of America and had no involvement in the attack of September 11. In dividing our armed forces between Afghanistan and Iraq, this Administration divided the American people and alienated friendly nations who were helping us to win the Global War on Terror.

Mr. Speaker, we will do everything in our power to prevent a tragedy like 9/11 from ever occurring again. Americans will not live in fear of a terrorist like Osama bin Laden. First responders should and will be equipped with all the tools necessary to meet the needs of the American people. Thus, today we celebrate the unsung heroes, and the families who survived them, and rededicate ourselves to protecting and securing the lives of the American people from any future threats.

So horrific and traumatic were the events of September 11 that is engraved in our minds as well as our hearts. A day when time literally stood still and people from all walks of life came together. A day where many of us can vividly recall exactly where we were and what we were doing. September 11 was a day that shook the whole world witnessed.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the history of the United States there have been few events that have had transformative impact on the people of the country. For my parents' generation the death of President Franklin Roosevelt was such an occasion. For my generation, the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 is a moment that lives with us forever. The explosion of the Shuttle Challenger in 1986 left a traumatic and indelible impression on my children's generation. The morning of September 11, 2001 is a day all living Americans will remember forever.

Today, six years later, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175. When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, we were all oblivious to the devastation that would later plague the nation. None of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City

and the Pentagon and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. How I wish we could have hugged and kissed and held each of the victims one last time.

I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives. My prayer is that those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord's loving arms. And down here on the ground, their memory will never be forgotten.

We will always remember September 11 as the day that brought the whole world together. Many people lost their loved ones. Mr. Speaker, as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged. In the midst of September 11, there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters. We were not Red State or Blue State. We were all simply Americans. On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness. More importantly, we were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that have made America the greatest country in the history of the world.

As we continue to pray for the families of the victims and reflect upon that defining moment in our history, we are inspired by the fact that we are a people determined to defend our way of life. But for the better part of six years, we had allowed ourselves to be held hostage by the fear and anger that overwhelmed us on September 11. Over time hearts have healed and a new sense of hope and security has developed amongst the people of this nation. Since that horrific day many lives have continued to be sacrificed and it is time to bring our troops home and unite once more as a nation that serves as the home of the brave and the free.

As we move forward we hold true to the fact that 9/11 is a day that we will never forget. September 11 will never and should never be just another day in the hearts and minds of all people of the United States; but rather a day to reflect on the lives lost and the undying hope that prevails within the hearts and minds of the American people. Although the future is uncertain we can hold true to the strong will and compassion that united our nation during a day meant to divide and destroy us. We, the 110th Congress have an obligation to protect the American people from harm and ensure that a tragedy such as 9/11 never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, I believe all Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we experienced six years ago. We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives. We owe it to them to ensure that their children and loved ones will never again experience such pain, suffering, and loss. We can do this. We must do this. But to bring this new future into being, we need a new direction from the present course.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 643.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. On that crisp fall morning, we lost nearly 3,000 American lives in an event that shook this nation to

its core, violently searing the depths of our consciousness.

Six years removed from that infamous day, we continue to mourn the victims, praise the first responders' heroics and seek out our enemies who committed such heinous, inhuman acts. It is still hard to comprehend what could drive someone to take their own life in order to kill others.

What we do know is that the forces propelling the destruction and devastation of 9/11 were hatred, intolerance and fanaticism. Understanding what triggers this fervor of hate and how to mitigate its ascension is the key to ensuring our nation's long term security.

As we continue to move forward from 9/11, the importance of well equipped, highly trained first responders and a robust but constitutionally balanced intelligence gathering apparatus remains paramount to our homeland security.

The immediate and heroic emergency response to the attacks on the Pentagon from Arlington County's fire and police departments remind us that localities—not just the Federal Government—will play the integral role in any and all homeland security efforts. Further, sound intelligence and the regularity today with which law enforcement and agencies share intelligence across jurisdictional boundaries, which has proven difficult in the past, will lower the possibility of future attacks. Complacency is not an option, but the progress we've made in these areas has put us on the right track.

Mr. Speaker, coming to terms with the realities of a post-9/11 world has been difficult for our nation. But to honor the lives of those lost and protect our current and future generations it is our responsibility to continue doing everything within our power—in line with our values as Americans—to ensure that a tragedy of this magnitude never occurs again.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, six years ago, America awoke on a sunny Tuesday morning to learn we were under attack. Today, we once again pause to reflect upon those who lost their lives that day, and those they left behind. We remember the bravery of the firefighters, policemen, emergency responders, and volunteers who charged up the stairs of the twin towers or into the inferno of the Pentagon. We remember the passengers on Flight 93, whose sacrifice in the fields of Pennsylvania saved countless lives elsewhere. We remember the ordinary Americans who gave something of themselves that day or in the weeks that followed, by volunteering at ground zero, by giving blood, or donating money.

As we think about that day, and the way it changed us all, we must also ask ourselves whether we have done enough to honor the memories of the many victims of the attacks. I am pleased that on this September 11, Congress can finally say that it passed legislation to implement the recommendations of the independent bipartisan 9/11 Commission. However, we cannot be complacent, and must continue to improve the security of our ports, borders, and other critical infrastructure. Finally, as Osama Bin Laden's latest video reminds us, those who perpetrated the September 11th attacks are still at large. We must ensure that our military has the resources it needs to track down those responsible for the attacks.

As Americans gather to remember September 11, 2001, let us reflect upon the fact

that on a day that will be remembered as one of the worst for America, Americans were at their best. Maintaining the spirit of unity that brought us together in the aftermath of those attacks is perhaps the way that we can best honor the memories of those who died.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, six years have passed since America lost our innocence and terrorism struck at the root of our Nation's soil. I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 643, which recognizes September 11 as a day of remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, I am a New Yorker, born and bred. I love our city. I was in New York when this tragedy occurred. I would often say to my children when we were in New York, look at the skyline, look at the World Trade Center. It was so invigorating. It makes me feel so wonderful just to be in this city, the city I love, the city in which I was born.

We New Yorkers are a tough breed; but I have to tell my colleagues, six years ago when I drove over the George Washington Bridge to return to Washington and I took a look at the Manhattan skyline and saw the Twin Towers were not there, in its place I saw only smoke and fire and it deeply affected me.

Mr. Speaker, when I think of the victims, the men, women and children who lost their lives; the firemen, the policemen who went there to save people's lives, and lost their lives, I am saddened. People who went to work, like millions of people across our great country go to work to earn a living to support their families, they went to work and so many were killed by terrorists for simply going about their daily lives. Some of these were my constituents and their families continue to mourn this great loss.

Six years later we have far more to do. The terrorist ringleader, Osama bin Laden remains on the lam. We also know many of those brave individuals who sought to rescue and then recover the victims of this tragedy, are now becoming ill due to exposure to environmental toxins at Ground Zero. Today these brave volunteers, area residents and students still lack a comprehensive federal plan to provide treatment and monitoring of their ailments. This is unconscionable.

I am proud to join with my NY Colleagues this week to introduce the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. This bill would ensure that everyone exposed to the Ground Zero toxins has a right to be medically monitored and all that are sick have a right to treatment. It would also rightfully provide compensation for loss by reopening the 9/11 Compensation Fund.

Today, I feel sorrow in our remembrance of the tragedy of 9/11. We will never forget what happened that day. But we must look forward and right the wrongs our nation has perpetuated against our own heroes and provide them with the care and compensation they so desperately deserve. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to pause and reflect on the tremendous loss of life that day, and how so many sacrificed so much for their fellow Americans.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 643.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KAGEN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 257, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 643, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 257, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 257, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 330, nays 0, not voting 102, as follows:

[Roll No. 865]

YEAS—330

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baider

Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Becerra
Berman
Biggert
Billbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)

Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)

Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeLaunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
English (PA)
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Herseth Sandlin
Hill
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra

Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCullum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne

Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Richardson
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf

Woolsey Wynn Young (AK)
Wu Yarmuth Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—102

Ackerman Fallin Mitchell
Baker Gallegly Moran (KS)
Barton (TX) Garrett (NJ)
Bean Gonzalez Nadler
Berkley Granger Napolitano
Berry Hall (TX) Neal (MA)
Blumenauer Hastert Perlmutter
Bonner Hastings (WA) Platts
Bono Heller Pryce (OH)
Boswell Hensarling Rahall
Boyd (FL) Herger Ramstad
Boyda (KS) Higgins Reynolds
Butterfield Hinchey Rodriguez
Calvert Hooley Rogers (KY)
Campbell (CA) Hunter Rohrabacher
Cannon Israel Roskam
Capps Issa Rothman
Capuano Johnson (IL) Rush
Carney Johnson, Sam Salazar
Chandler Kaptur Sessions
Clay Kilpatrick Shimkus
Conyers King (NY) Simpson
Costello Lee Skelton
Cubin Linder Smith (TX)
Culberson Lipinski Solis
Davis (AL) Lofgren, Zoe Stupak
Davis, Jo Ann Lucas Sullivan
Deal (GA) Lynch Tancredo
DeGette Maloney (NY) Thompson (CA)
Doolittle Marchant Towns
Doyle Matheson Velázquez
Emerson McCarthy (CA) Waters
Eshoo Meeks (NY) Weiner
Everett Miller, Gary Westmoreland

□ 1855

Mr. KING of Iowa changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 10, 2007, I was absent during the recorded vote on H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 257.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 865 on September 10, 2007 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 643, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 643.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 334, nays 1, not voting 98, as follows:

[Roll No. 866]

YEAS—334

Abercrombie Farr
Aderholt Fattah
Akin Feeney
Alexander Ferguson
Allen Filner
Altmire Flake
Andrews Forbes
Arcuri Fortenberry
Baca Fossella
Bachmann Fox
Bachus Frank (MA)
Baird Franks (AZ)
Baldwin Frelinghuysen
Barrett (SC) Gerlach
Barrow Giffords
Bartlett (MD) Gilchrest
Bean Gillibrand
Becerra Gingrey
Berman Gohmert
Biggert Goode
Bilbray Goodlatte
Bilirakis Gordon
Bishop (GA) Graves
Bishop (NY) Green, Al
Bishop (UT) Green, Gene
Blackburn Grijalva
Boehner Gutierrez
Boozman Hall (NY)
Boren Hare
Boucher Harman
Boustany Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA) Hayes
Brady (TX) Herseht Sandlin
Braley (IA) Hinojosa
Broun (GA) Hirono
Brown (SC) Hobson
Brown, Corrine Hodes
Brown-Waite, Hoekstra
Ginny Holden
Buchanan Holt
Burgess Honda
Burton (IN) Hoyer
Buyer Hulshof
Camp (MI) Hunter
Cantor Inglis (SC)
Capito Inslee
Cardoza Jackson (IL)
Carnahan Jackson-Lee
Carson (TX)
Carter Jefferson
Castle Jindal
Castor Johnson (GA)
Chabot Johnson, E. B.
Clarke Jones (NC)
Cleaver Jones (OH)
Clyburn Jordan
Coble Kagen
Cohen Kanjorski
Cole (OK) Keller
Conaway Kennedy
Cooper Kildee
Costa Kind
Courtney King (IA)
Cramer Kingston
Crenshaw Kirk
Crowley Klein (FL)
Cuellar Kline (MN)
Cummings Knollenberg
Davis (CA) Kuhl (NY)
Davis (IL) LaHood
Davis (KY) Lamborn
Davis, David Lampson
Davis, Lincoln Langevin
Davis, Tom Lantos
DeFazio Larsen (WA)
Delahunt Larson (CT)
DeLauro Latham
Dent LaTourette
Diaz-Balart, L. Levin
Diaz-Balart, M. Lewis (CA)
Dicks Lewis (GA)
Dingell Lewis (KY)
Doggett LoBiondo
Donnelly Loebuck
Drake Lowey
Dreier Lungren, Daniel
Duncan E.
Edwards Mack
Ehlers Mahoney (FL)
Ellison Manzullo
Ellsworth Markey
Emanuel Marshall
Engel Matsui
English (PA) McCarthy (NY)
Etheridge McCaul (TX)

Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt

Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman

Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Kucinich

NOT VOTING—98

Ackerman Fallin Mitchell
Baker Gallegly Moran (KS)
Barton (TX) Garrett (NJ)
Berkley Gonzalez Nadler
Berry Granger Napolitano
Blumenauer Hall (TX) Neal (MA)
Bonner Hastert Perlmutter
Bono Hastings (WA) Platts
Boswell Heller Pryce (OH)
Boyd (FL) Hensarling Rahall
Boyda (KS) Herger Ramstad
Butterfield Higgins Rodriguez
Calvert Hinchey Rogers (KY)
Campbell (CA) Hooley Rohrabacher
Cannon Israel Roskam
Capps Issa Rothman
Capuano Johnson (IL) Rush
Carney Johnson, Sam Salazar
Chandler Kaptur Sessions
Clay Kilpatrick Shimkus
Conyers King (NY) Simpson
Costello Lee Smith (TX)
Cubin Linder Solis
Culberson Lipinski Stupak
Davis (AL) Lofgren, Zoe Sullivan
Davis, Jo Ann Lucas Tancredo
Deal (GA) Lynch Thompson (CA)
DeGette Maloney (NY) Towns
Doolittle Marchant Velázquez
Doyle Matheson Waters
Emerson McCarthy (CA) Weiner
Eshoo Meeks (NY) Westmoreland
Everett Miller, Gary

□ 1903

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 866 on September 10, 2007 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 10, 2007, I was absent during the recorded vote on H. Res. 643. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 643.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, in order to commemorate September 11 day in Kansas, I was unable to cast my vote for H. Res. 643. Had I been present for Rollcall Vote 866, I would have voted in the affirmative.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I took a leave of absence on September 10, 2007, as I was attending to personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

"Yea"—H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (Representative PLATTS—Oversight and Government Reform).

"Yea"—H. Res. 643—Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges (Representatives HOYER and BOEHNER).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unable to attend to several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 257, Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and voted "yea" on House Resolution 643, which recognizes September 11 as a day of remembrance.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, as you know, we will not be in session tomorrow night.

Many of us remember some 6 years ago when we first had a meeting in the Capitol Police headquarters, many of us, after the traumatic morning and afternoon; and we resolved that we would show to the country a unity and a resolve that the terrorist attack would neither cow us nor deter us from the defense of freedom and liberty and our country and its people.

We are now, of course, 6 years later and continue to be involved in a battle to defeat those who by terror would intimidate us and hurt our people and our country and our way of life.

In a moment we will be led by Speaker PELOSI and Leader BOEHNER to the front steps of the Capitol. We will have a brief ceremony to again show to the country and, indeed, to the world that while we may have differences in debate, there are no differences in our unity of purpose to defend our country, our Constitution, and our people, and to ensure that the friends of liberty around the world will know that they have a friend in the United States of America.

So I would ask all of you to join us as Speaker PELOSI and Leader BOEHNER lead us out to the front steps on the House side. We will organize there, stand, and we will be led in the "Star-Spangled Banner" by the United States Marine Corps Band. We will have some comments by the Speaker and by the leader, and then we will conclude, as we did on that evening 6 years ago, with the singing of "God Bless America." I think that was one of the most moving moments in my service in the

House of Representatives. I am sure that many of you feel the same way.

So, Mr. Speaker, the House will remain in session, but we would ask all Members to join, as I said, Speaker PELOSI, Leader BOEHNER, and myself on the front steps of the Capitol. We will proceed now.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE UNJUST PROSECUTION OF FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the 237th day of incarceration for two former U.S. Border Patrol agents. Agent Ramos and Compean were convicted in March of 2006 for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. These agents have now been in prison for more than 7 months.

Since the agents' conviction, thousands of American citizens and dozens of Members of Congress have asked President Bush to pardon these two men. Mr. Speaker, many in this country are disappointed that the present sentence of Scooter Libby was commuted while these two law enforcement officers are still in prison. Mr. Libby did not spend one day in prison; yet two decorated Border Patrol agents with exemplary records, who were doing their duty to protect the American people from an illegal alien drug smuggler, are serving 11- and 12-year prison sentences. By attempting to apprehend an illegal alien drug smuggler, these agents were enforcing our laws, not breaking them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Judiciary Chairman JOHN CONYERS for his concern and interest in this case. I also want to thank Foreign Affairs Subcommittee Chairman BILL DELAHUNT, who, prior to the August recess, held a hearing to examine the Mexican Government's influence in this case. I am hopeful that Chairman JOHN CONYERS will see to it that the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing within the next 30 to 45 days to fully examine this case.

While the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this case in July, additional questions remain about how this prosecution was initiated and how the U.S. Attorney's Office proceeded in this case. Since that time, it has become clear that not only did the prosecution prevent the jury from hearing evidence that the smuggler brought a second load of drugs across our border, but the smuggler was given free access to our country during and after the second smuggling incident.

The American people want to know, why did the U.S. Attorney's Office continue to prosecute these two border agents even after the credibility of the drug smuggler was shattered? This is a question that U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton needs to answer. By shedding light on the questionable actions of the prosecution in this case, I am hopeful that this gross miscarriage of justice can be corrected.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I call on the White House again to look seriously at the situation. These two border agents are Hispanic Americans who have served this Nation, and they have a right to justice. This is an example of an injustice.

□ 1915

TRIBUTE TO FOUR OF NEWARK'S FINEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAGEN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the House floor today.

Over the August recess, four young, promising Newark, New Jersey residents were savagely gunned down execution style in a city playground while enjoying the last days of summer.

On August 14, 2007, in my city of Newark, Terrance Aerial, age 18, Dashon Harvey and Iofemi Hightower, both age 20, were senselessly murdered. Natasha Aerial, age 19, is still recovering in the hospital.

I stand here today to pay tribute to their lives. While three were cut short, were full of courage and determination and continue to inspire the residents of Newark.

Active in their community, these youths stayed above the fray. Dashon, Iofemi and Natasha were avid music lovers and played in their Newark High School marching bands while they attended high school. Terrance, full of charisma, became an ordained minister at age 13.

Their hard work paid off; all became students at Delaware State University. Natasha and Dashon were juniors, Terrance was a freshman, and Iofemi was about to begin classes.

In a testament to how they lived their lives, Natasha, who has undergone many major surgeries and is still

recuperating, provided the police with many key details that led to the apprehension of six suspects. Without her input, some of the suspects may have evaded capture. Her bravery and perseverance is an inspiration for others who, for various reasons, fail to speak up for what is right at times.

While I know that their families and the community are going through a trying time, I hope they take comfort in the legacy that these four young adults had created. It can be said that this senseless crime cut short their promise, that their destinies went unfilled. I beg to differ. In the short time that they were alive, their lives epitomized consciousness, fortitude and dedication to family and friends. They have and will continue to serve as role models for the young and old in the city of Newark.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize three lives that ended too soon, and one that is still brimming with possibilities. Let us not remember Terrance Aeriell, Dashon Harvey and Iofemi Hightower for the senseless crime that took their lives, but for the lives that they led. As Natasha Aeriell continues to recover, I commend her for her bravery and conviction. I wish to convey my sorrow and condolences again to their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF SEPTEMBER 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago today, most Americans were going about their business, and then we woke up to the next day, September 11, 2001. I was not yet in Congress at that time, but I was a judge in Texas. And I was driving to the courthouse when I was listening to country western music, and it was interrupted about an airplane that crashed into the World Trade Center. And a few minutes later, a second airplane crashed into the World Trade Center.

And about that time, as I was driving my jeep, I noticed that other folks on the road had pulled off to the side of the road, all doing the same thing, listening to the radio, hearing the news from New York. And then we heard more news. We heard about a third airplane, where some good folks in Pennsylvania took matters into their own hands. And later we learned why that plane crashed in Pennsylvania; it did not crash in Washington, D.C. at the White House or even this Capitol. And finally, we heard about a fourth air-

plane, a plane that crashed not far from here into the Pentagon.

And at the end of that day, like many Americans, I was watching television and noticed all of the news reports about the World Trade Center and about the Pentagon, and followed that day, as most Americans, intensely observing and being concerned about our country.

As I was watching television that afternoon, over the skies of Houston, Texas, where I'm from, the 147th Air National Guard were flying those F-16s on patrol over our skies and over our refineries, over our ports. But as I was watching television, I noticed that when those planes hit the World Trade Center, that there were thousands and thousands of people, good people, people of all races, all nationalities, both sexes and all ages, when those planes hit the World Trade Center, they were trying to get away from that terror in the sky as fast as they could. They were running as hard as they could. Nothing wrong with that, but that's what they were doing, fleeing that enemy that attacked us on our soil.

But I also noticed that there was another group of people, not very many, but as soon as those planes hit the World Trade Center, they were running as hard as they could to get to that terror that had crashed into our buildings in New York City. Who were they? Emergency medical technicians, firefighters and police officers, because that's what they do; they respond first to terror, domestic or international.

And while today, Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we remember the thousands of people who died on September 11, 2001, it's equally important that we remember the people who lived, that were allowed to live because our police officers, our firefighters and our emergency technical folks were on the job, saving those lives of those people who were in the World Trade Center. Amazing Americans, those individuals, many of whom lost friends that were trying to get into the World Trade Center, people that they had known all their lives, but they did it because it is their duty and because it was the right thing to do.

Of course we have to remember and need to remember the plane that crashed into the Pentagon as well. And across the street from the Pentagon is Arlington National Cemetery, where we bury America's warriors from all wars since the war between the States. And on duty that day, when that plane came low across this land and crashed into the Pentagon, at Arlington National Cemetery, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, those soldiers were on duty. They did not leave their post. They stayed there throughout the entire episode. Amazing people, our military.

So it's incumbent upon us not only to remember those that died, those that lived because of our first responders, but we need to remember that we did not ask for this war, and we must deal

with it wherever it takes us throughout this world.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS AND THE NEED TO REFOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks 6 years since America experienced its worst foreign terrorist attack. I send my solemn prayers to the families of the victims and the survivors of the September 11 attack, where nearly 3,000 persons lost their lives.

Although no amount of time can ever bring back the ones you cherish or erase the memories of the tragic event, it is my hope that their wounds have begun to heal.

While the world and the United States mourned the loss of innocent lives that day, we also sought answers as to who had attacked us and what would be our next steps. Rather than focusing on those responsible for organizing these attacks, President Bush and his administration diverted our efforts and refocused our resources to fight the global war on terror by waging war against the regime of Saddam Hussein via a preemptive strike. The administration presented its erroneous case by drawing on allegations that Iran had weapons of mass destruction, that it was a clear threat to the United States, and that it was connected with al Qaeda.

While failing to gain the support of the global community, this administration continued on with its ill-conceived stance on Iraq, convincing the majority of the Congress to vote in favor of entering a war where only 5 years later we continue to pay heavily.

And what exactly has been the cost? It has cost over \$450 billion in taxpayers hard-earned dollars, according to the Congressional Research Service. It has left families of servicemembers and the larger population mourning the deaths of over 3,750 servicemembers, 69 of those being from the great State of Maryland. It has resulted in a strained family situation for those who endure multiple deployments, and has led to strikingly low levels of recruitment and retention of our mid-career armed servicemembers.

It has undercut our efforts to ensure adequate protection of the home front because much of the needed equipment has been left behind unaccounted for in Iraq, as the National Guard testified before a Senate committee last April.

It has belabored the economy, where the Government Accountability Office, GAO, has reported that the United States simply cannot continue spending at its current rate. And it has, in reality, resulted in the establishment

of al Qaeda in Iraq, as reported by the National Intelligence Estimate.

Mr. Speaker, the GAO testified before the House Armed Services Committee, upon which I sit, last week that only three of the 18 benchmarks established by the Congress have been met. Four have been partially met, and 11 have not been met at all. Specifically, only two of the nine security-related benchmarks were met, two were partially met, and five not met at all.

Furthermore, in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday, September 6, the Jones Commission made clear that political reconciliation is a key component of resolving the issue of sectarian violence. Accordingly, political reconciliation requires the diplomatic and international support of the global community. Presently, the President and this administration's efforts to gain this pivotal support are less than adequate. The Bush administration, as it has done in the past, continues to try to buy the patience of this Congress and the American people by pulling for excuses.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago I expressed my disapproval of the war by voting against the United States military operations in Iraq.

Today, I still remain unwavering in my support of our troops and the urgent need to make a responsible and timely redeployment of our men and women in uniform as a means to end the continued bloodshed.

I urge my colleagues to support our troops, support saving taxpayer dollars, and support the victims of September 11 by ushering in measures that will ensure diplomatic multilateral and bilateral support for political reconciliation in Iraq. A more focused and more determined strategy that will refocus and better utilize our efforts to fight the global war on terror is necessary to ensure that the victims of September 11 have not died without adequate retribution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1930

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE WILL REIGN IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor today as we commemorated one day early the 6 years since 9/11.

Most of us just came from the steps of the east side of the United States Capitol bringing back memories of how we went together, united, on that day, September 11, 2001, to show the world and to reinforce America's values that we would not be deterred, democracy would reign, freedom would reign, and justice would reign in this Nation.

But I come this evening to again express my deepest sympathy for those families that still mourn and those who still bear the emotional scars and, of course, those who remain injured from that fateful day. I remember being here in the United States Capitol in a meeting. Of course, our minds would never have imagined and could not conceive of what we were about to expect as we heard people running through the Capitol knocking on doors, not being able to explain just what was happening.

Of course, those who wished to continue the day's business did not understand that our lives would never be the same. We finally recognized that there was something out of the ordinary happening. As we, in essence, escaped from this building without much information or understanding, watching over our shoulder the billowing black smoke of the Pentagon, rumors abounded. There were thoughts, suggestions, rumors or facts that planes were heading for a number of places, including the United States Capitol in Washington, DC.

On that day, we saw the loss of lives of those in the Twin Towers and the airplanes in the skies. We are reminded of those souls who steered that plane away from the United States Capitol that landed in the fields of Pennsylvania. We hold all of these souls dear to our heart. Over the weekend, I was able to catch, as I was passing by our television, a documentary on engine 54 in New York. It is my understanding that all 15 of those that were on duty on that day lost their lives.

Today I stand to salute all of the first responders and to highlight the firefighters who went into those buildings and never came out, and all other rescuers who likewise went into the buildings and never came out.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, we vowed, after the creation of this committee, to never have this happen again. Unfortunately, there is much work to be done. We

challenge, and we are challenged, to be dutiful and diligent in making sure that cargo on airplanes does not get unscreened by TSA, that we are assured that airports in the front and the back are secure, and that we are looking keenly at America's transportation system of buses, trains, and highways. We owe that to the American people.

Then, Mr. Speaker, as we listened to General Petraeus and to Ambassador Crocker today, we owe them a real war on terror and that is to be able to join with the world's allies, our allies, and fight the war on terror, fight it and win it in Afghanistan, find Osama bin Laden and bring a political reconciliation to Iraq so that we can bring our soldiers home. Fueling the fires of Al Qaeda and allowing them to come to Iraq in 2005 does not pay tribute to those who died on 9/11.

As I hold in my hand the American flag, I stand here today to recommit myself and to ask my colleagues as they come to this floor to recommit themselves to those lives that were lost, those families that mourn, that we will be a Nation united under truth, fighting the war on terror, making that our number one priority, and that we will pay tribute to the United States military, those who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan and places around the world, and make a final and important decision that the political reconciliation for Iraq must be in the hands of a sovereign people and a sovereign nation of Iraq.

It is time now to bring our soldiers home. The war on terror continues. We will never be daunted by that. We stand against the terrorists. But we must do it rightfully and truthfully. We must join together, win the war on terror, bring our soldiers home so that war can be broadened and we can be victorious on behalf of the people of the United States and those who lost their lives in that war.

REPORT ON IRAQ BY GENERAL PETRAEUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentlewoman from Texas who just preceded me stated, we just completed a memorial dedication remembrance ceremony on the steps of the Capitol as Members on both sides of the aisle came together led by our distinguished Speaker, our distinguished majority leader, and our distinguished minority leader. We came together in a very bipartisan way to once again pay tribute to the lives that were lost, indeed, and to their families, and to our first responders and the lives that were lost on their part and, of course, the City of New York on that great tragic day, that

great tragedy that occurred 6 years ago today, Mr. Speaker.

Before we went to the steps, the majority leader made a statement to our colleagues on this floor, which I fully support and endorse. I paraphrase his comments, but basically what Mr. HOYER said to us, just a few minutes ago, was that the terrorists, the extremists, those who hate our way of life and hate everything about this country, our great country, brought us to our knees, but they didn't bring us down. And they will never bring us down.

I absolutely agree that it showed the resolve of the American people that they can't bring us down. They got our attention, absolutely. And, Mr. Speaker, today, of course, also is the day that General Petraeus, the commander of Multinational Force Iraq, the four-star general, the combatant commander on the ground in Iraq, along with our ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, gave their report to the American Congress, to the House of Representatives, they will do the same thing over the next couple of days to the Senate, and directed this report to the House Armed Services Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, there were 111 Members of those two respective committees present for this hearing today, which went on almost 7 hours. It was an opportunity for Members on both sides of the aisle to come together to listen carefully to a report that we mandated in our emergency supplemental spending bill that was passed March of this year, some 6 months ago.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that bothered me about this report was that in this town, last week, in this Congress, indeed, we heard nothing but negative comments about the messenger and what he might bring in regard to this report to suggest that it would be less than honest. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times today ran an article that basically showed a picture of General Petraeus and said, underneath the caption of that picture, General Petraeus is General Betray Us, to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this general, our combatant commander of Multinational Force Iraq, would lie to the American people for some political advantage.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I want to yield to my friend from Mississippi. I think that he may have a copy with him of that particular ad. I will be happy now to yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. I thank him for the remarks that he has already made.

Actually, it is not usually my practice to come before this House and defend the New York Times. But it was actually an advertisement, a full-page advertisement taken out in the New York Times by the ultra-leftist group, moveon.org. I have a copy of it right here.

Mr. Speaker, it is by George Soros and moveon.org. It says: "General

Petraeus or general betray us? Cooking the books for the White House." I was astonished to see even moveon.org attack the messenger as they did today and attack the credibility and integrity and, if you please, the patriotism of this great servant who has served so many years in the military and who was confirmed unanimously in the United States Senate. It was and is an insult. It shows the level to which the opponents of this surge and those who would legislate defeat in Iraq would go.

I was glad to see Ranking Member DUNCAN HUNTER and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN take this group to task during the hearing and to call on members of the committee at the hearing today to disassociate themselves, whether they agree with our policy in Iraq or not, to disassociate themselves from this type of smear tactic that we saw coming from moveon.org in the New York Times in the form of this full-page ad.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed that more Members on both sides of the aisle didn't rise and denounce this scurrilous attack on the integrity of one of our great public servants.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi before I yield to my colleagues, the gentleman from Minnesota and also the gentleman from Tennessee. But I thank the gentleman firstly from Mississippi for bringing that New York Times ad so that our colleagues on the floor can see just how despicable this is. Now, at the bottom, you can't see the fine print, but moveon.org disavows itself from any political affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to give the Members of this body an opportunity to repudiate that ad. I have introduced a resolution. I understand our leadership on the Republican side will have a resolution to just say to the Members, please, in a bipartisan way, this cannot stand, and we cannot tolerate this. I think we will get an overwhelming show of support for that resolution.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman. I have a remark I would like to make in a few minutes. I know our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee, has some comments he would like to make. But I was struck, in view of the discussion we are having right here, that today in that hearing that the gentleman was just talking about, the Joint House Armed Services Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, that General Petraeus was forced, I believe is the right word, to do something that I find absolutely extraordinary.

□ 1945

I have got his report right here to Congress on the situation in Iraq.

In the second paragraph, after he thanks the chairmen and ranking members, he says, "At the outset, I

would like to note that this is my testimony. Although I have briefed my assessment and recommendations to my chain of command, I wrote this testimony myself. It has not been cleared by nor shared with anyone in the Pentagon, the White House or Congress."

To think, one of the finest officers in the American Armed Forces felt it necessary to put this in the opening two sentences of his testimony, I find shocking and distressing. I am sure we will have more to say about that later.

But it is not only in response to this scurrilous ad, unforgivable ad that moveon.org has written, but, frankly, as my colleagues here know, there have been comments made by some of our colleagues directly challenging and questioning the integrity of General Petraeus. And when I saw this today, I was just appalled that we have reached that point.

Mr. GINGREY. The gentleman is so, so right. Here we are talking about a four-star general, West Point graduate, 35 years of military service, third rotation in Iraq, to have to put up with that kind of despicable attack. And, like I say, we are going to give our colleagues on both sides of the aisle an opportunity to repudiate that, which I am sure they will.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. WAMP.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his continued leadership.

It is not just General Petraeus that moveon.org attacks. One of the distinguished, I think very reasonable members of the Democratic Caucus here in the house, BRIAN BAIRD of Washington State, also has been protested by moveon.org in his office since he returned from Iraq in August and basically told what he saw. He came back and just said, this is what I saw: There is progress, and we shouldn't leave precipitously because there will be major consequences.

He told the truth. He is an honorable guy. He serves here in the House. I respect him. He is a Democrat, and moveon sends hundreds of people to protest at his office. It is a political agenda, and it is unfortunate.

I grew up a Democrat. The first half of my life I was a Democrat; the second half I was a Republican. I don't think either party has an exclusive on integrity or ideas, but I think this is so far over the top.

There used to be things that we did in this country as Americans, not as Democrats and Republicans. This should not be about winning the next election or the last election. Wars should not divide us along Democrat and Republican lines, and everything should not be seen through that prism, and moveon.org is shameless to do this. It is shameless, this advertisement in The New York Times, and, as the gentleman from Georgia said, everyone in this body should condemn

what they are doing to try to win elections over our men and women in uniform in Iraq.

My nephew is serving there in Iraq right now. I hate it that he would turn around and see this in a full page ad in a major newspaper against the most equipped leader to lead our forces in Iraq that our country has to offer, period, is who this is.

For them to slander him in this way for political gain is un-American. What they have done is un-American. They have the right under the Constitution to say it, and we have the right as Americans to reject it, and everybody in this House should do that.

Three main things, while I have an opportunity to speak tonight.

The mission is just. We lose sight of that sometimes, that our men and women in uniform are doing and carrying out what is right for our country at this very volatile time in world history.

It is also easy to forget that over half the Democrats in the United States Senate and almost half the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives voted to remove Saddam Hussein by force. And others will come and say, oh, George Bush sold us a bunch of bad information.

Listen, if there was any bad information, everyone had the same information, and many of us voted, from both sides of the aisle, to remove Saddam Hussein by force. It is just very convenient now to say, oh, that was them and not me.

It is hard to take responsibility for your actions. It is hard to stand before the American people and say we need to work through this together. We need to stand behind our troops until they prevail, until we have victory and not retreat in Iraq, instead of saying this is all about them. It used to be in this country about us. We did things like this together, and we didn't retreat so the world would see us walk away from our commitments. This mission is just, number one.

Number two, the military has been extraordinary. They have been great. You heard General Petraeus say that today. What the Marines have done in Anbar, the progress that has been made there, it wasn't even hardly covered by the GAO report. They didn't even talk about the extraordinary success, civilian casualties way down, 80 percent success in the Anbar Province.

The moderates are even siding up with us and saying "We don't like al Qaeda. They are cutting off our people's fingers. They are killing our children. We want to fight with the Americans against these insurgents."

That is not the way it was before we strengthened our forces and had this success in Anbar. The military is performing in an extraordinary way and the tribal governments are now siding with us. That is progress by any definition.

The military is succeeding in Iraq. You may not want to hear it, because,

as one of your distinguished leaders said, you are in trouble politically if we succeed as a Nation in Iraq. That is what he said. I hated that he said it. That is terrible. That is an indictment on politics in America. We all win if we beat these terrorists in Iraq. Everyone in this country wins. The military is succeeding.

Number three, the political progress in Iraq is not happening. That is true. We need to be honest about it. I wish personally we could get rid of the Maliki government because I think it is deplorable. But we promoted free elections and that is what we got, and we can't very well turn around now and say, oh, we didn't like who you elected. Get rid of him. They have got to do that. That is the tough work of freedom. They have got to do that. I hope they do. But that is up to them. Politically, we are not succeeding the way we need to succeed in Iraq, and all of us in this House have an obligation to come together and see that through to completion.

Let me just close with this: I have worked for 13 years in a bipartisan way. I have scars on my back to prove it. I have made people on my side of the aisle livid with some of the positions that I have taken working with the other side. But I will not—

Mr. WICKER. Amen.

Mr. WAMP. You didn't have to say "amen."

But I will not cooperate with anyone for our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines to walk away in defeat or to leave prematurely before we can hold our head up and say "America has succeeded with this just mission in Iraq."

I don't want to stay for 5 years or 10 years. I think it is a matter of months before we can see real, live redeployments. But the military leaders need to do that. It doesn't need to happen on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. We can't micromanage this war, and we sure as heck shouldn't be sending signals that we are going to pull them out, because that is the worst thing we can do for the long-term interests of our country.

The Middle East is in chaos. The Wall Street Journal said it well last week. The worst religious and political pathology in the history of the world is in the Middle East, and now you add to that nuclear weapons, terrorism, IEDs and control of the world's oil supplies, there is a lot at stake.

This is not Vietnam. Nothing like it. Nothing like it. It is a whole lot worse, the stakes of losing in Iraq. I believe that deep in my soul, and I am going to continue to say that on the floor of this House. We need to stand together as a Nation and stand together behind our men and women in uniform until we can leave in victory and drive back this terrorist threat at this point we are fighting in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee, because

he knows of what he speaks and he speaks it well.

You know, this situation with the ad that the gentleman from Mississippi so kindly brought to the floor so all of our colleagues who may not have seen it in the newspaper this morning would have an opportunity to know exactly of what we are speaking about tonight, the gentleman from Tennessee suggested that sometimes people want somebody else to do their dirty work.

Mr. Speaker, look at this first slide to my left. Here is the quote: "No one wants to call Petraeus a liar on national TV, noted one Democratic Senator, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The expectation is that the outside groups will do this for us."

This was last week, an anonymous Democratic Senator being interviewed by Politico.com.

Well, lo and behold, it looks like one these outside groups indeed are doing the dirty work of calling General Petraeus "General Betray Us." How despicable.

As I said just a few minutes earlier, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a gentleman, a patriot, a great leader who has served this country honorably and selflessly for over 35 years. He has risked his life in combat. He accepted lengthy deployments away from his family to defend our Nation and its citizens from its enemies.

For this, Mr. Speaker, he deserves the respect, the admiration and gratitude of every single American, and not disgraceful slander from despicable groups like moveon.org. Is that PHIL GINGREY coming up with an original statement? No. I am quoting Senator JOE LIEBERMAN. God bless Senator LIEBERMAN.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to our distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. GINGREY. I appreciate your allowing me to join you and these other very articulate people who are here tonight speaking on this issue.

I was not here as a Member of Congress on 9/11/2001, but I am very pleased to be here tonight. As we were outside singing The Star Spangled Banner and our colleagues in the majority were talking about our being united, I was thinking about the fourth verse of The Star Spangled Banner, which very seldom gets sung, but I think is something that is so appropriate for the time that we are in right now.

This is the way it goes. I know it by heart, but I didn't want to take a chance tonight, so I am going to look at my notes just in case. It is really my favorite verse.

"O, thus be it ever when free-men shall stand,

Between their lov'd homes and the war's desolation;

Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land

Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us as a nation.

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph
shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave."

When Francis Scott Key wrote those words in 1814, they meant a lot. They mean just as much or more now, and I am, like my colleagues, absolutely appalled at the approach that has been taken to the situation that we are in now by many on the Democratic side.

It is appalling that they would question the integrity of the very men and women who are giving them the chance to stand up and lambaste them and slander them the way they are. They completely have forgotten what happened on 9/11. Many American people have forgotten. They don't understand the threat that this country is under and what we are doing to preserve our freedom.

There is such irony in the fact that these people would get up and say this again against the people who are risking their lives so they can stand up in the safety of this country and speak freely. It just absolutely blows my mind that they are able to do that. They are being given the ability to speak freely by people risking their lives and people losing their lives every day.

There is an arrogance of this Congress too, I think, the arrogance that demanded this report, the arrogance that says we are failing, when, in the face of all of the statistics, things are going so much better. There is an arrogance that says that if there is no strong national government, then things aren't going right.

You know, people have forgotten that this country was founded to have a strong local and State governmental structure, and the local and state governmental structures in Iraq are working well. No, it is not going as well as the national level, but compare what we have done with what they have done. We have accomplished very little under the leadership of this Democratic house in the last 8 months; very, very little. You compare that to what they have been able to achieve and think about us.

I spoke to a class today, three classes, actually, in my district, and I said to those students, the American people really don't realize in many ways the radical idea that this country was when we were formed. When people came to the United States, before it was the United States, they came here for freedom. They came seeking freedom. All they had ever known was freedom.

□ 2000

When Britain tried to clamp down on us, people said we are not going to put up with that. All the people in this country have ever known is freedom. All the people of Iraq have ever known is repression. We have asked them to do in a couple of years what took many years to develop in this country; and,

again, it was a totally radical idea never perpetuated anywhere before. And yet they are doing very well at the local and provincial level, just like we did.

And now this Congress comes in and says if you don't have a strong national government, you have nothing. You are a failure. That is just not true. And I am simply appalled, too, at the people who want us to lose. How can they not understand the impact of our losing the war against the radical Islamic jihadists? This is not a war in Iraq; this is a worldwide war. One piece is in Iraq, and in many ways we are blessed that we have a concentration there where we can deal with it, because we are stopping them all over. They have not attacked us again. We have successfully defended ourselves from another attack, but they simply do not want to acknowledge it. All they see are the negatives, nothing positive.

And I, again, am appalled at the attitude of the people who want the United States of America to fail. My attitude to them is if you can find a better place to live, go live there. If you can't, then stay here, help us defend this country. Help us support our troops willingly to fight for our freedom. Help us to bring liberty to other places in the world. Then we will see a safe world. If not, go someplace else and live.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina with such prescient words she brings to us.

I want to bring my colleagues' attention to the next poster I have got. I am going to give two quotes, one from General Petraeus from the hearing today and the other from Ambassador Crocker.

First from General Petraeus: "To summarize, the security situation in Iraq is improving, and Iraqi elements are slowly taking on more of the responsibility for protecting their citizens. Innumerable challenges lie ahead. However, coalition and Iraqi security forces have made progress towards achieving sustainable security. As a result, the United States will be in a position to reduce its forces in Iraq in the months ahead." That was from the testimony of General David Petraeus. Later in the hour we will talk a little more about specific recommendations for troop withdrawal that General Petraeus made.

I will read that quote from Ambassador Crocker in just a minute, but at this point I see my friend from Mississippi is still with us, and I would like to yield to him, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. WICKER. I appreciate my friend yielding, and I have also been in need of a poster before and not been able to find it. If the gentleman would put that quote from General Petraeus back up, I will refer to it while he looks for the other quote from the ambassador.

To emphasize this point again, coalition and Iraqi security forces have made progress toward achieving sustainable security. Now, that is the tes-

timony of this well-respected general that we have entrusted with this very important mission.

And it disturbs me, Mr. Speaker, that often the message of the accomplishments doesn't get through to the American people. We hear only about benchmarks not quite being met or expectations not quite being realized. For example, people point to the fact that an oil law has not yet been enacted by the leadership in Iraq and submitted to the Iraqi Parliament.

As a matter of fact, as the testimony indicated today, oil revenues in Iraq are up and the revenues are in fact being distributed out to the local governments and the provinces. Now, this is in the absence of a final piece of legislation enacted by the parliament. But the fact remains that under this interim procedure that they have now, the oil revenues are there. Iraq is exporting oil for the first time in quite some time, and the oil revenues are being distributed out where they can benefit the people. That may not be a benchmark of legislation, but it is a real accomplishment; and it is the sort of thing that General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker were talking about.

Also, there has been much made of the fact that there has been no reconciliation statute enacted into law over there. But as was pointed out today in the testimony, former members of the Iraqi Army, former Baathists, if you please, are now being accepted into the government and being given pensions from the government and many of them are being accepted back into the security forces there in Iraq.

Now, a law hasn't been passed, but in my opinion that is de facto reconciliation and de facto amnesty for these people who were formerly in Saddam's Iraqi Army. By the thousands, these people are being integrated back into the mainstream of Iraqi security forces.

Also in the Anbar province, it is well known at least in this capital city that the sectarian leaders all across that province have turned on al Qaeda. They were in league with them a year ago. They have now turned on them, and they are helping the United States and coalition forces because they realize that their future does not lie with this destructive, violent al Qaeda force, but with the forces that would bring freedom and liberty and self-determination to more Iraqis.

Sectarian violence is down, as Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator MCCAIN pointed out in their op-ed in the Wall Street Journal today, and I would commend that to our colleagues. There is an excellent bipartisan piece about that. Sectarian violence is down all over the country, down 70 percent in Baghdad alone. So there are real accomplishments there.

Certainly, as the general said, innumerable challenges lie ahead. The assessment is optimistic, but it is sober

and this is no rosy scenario; but there is much reason to be optimistic.

Let me just say this about the feeling of the American people: I know that they are frustrated about this. This war has gone on longer than expected, and they have been conflicted about it. But I believe after being home for much of August and talking to my constituents, I think the American people do want us to succeed in Iraq. They realize that failure there, that withdrawal there, that leaving too early would leave a huge void that probably al Qaeda would fill and probably our detractors in Iran would fill, and they know that would be a disaster. They want success, and I think these two gentlemen who testified before us give us a good opportunity for success.

A few moments ago we gathered on the east steps of the House of Representatives, and we commemorated the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Two other speakers on the floor today were not Members of the House of Representatives at that time. I was, and I shall never forget the resolve and the determination of the Congress, both ends of this building, both sides of the aisle, on that day to defeat these terrorists.

The al Qaeda terrorist network that we are fighting in Iraq today is the very same network that brought down those two buildings in New York. They are the very same network that sent a plane crashing into the Pentagon. And they are the very same al Qaeda that had a plane headed toward Washington, DC, which undoubtedly was headed towards the Capitol Building.

We are still fighting al Qaeda, and I appreciate people like Ambassador Crocker and General Petraeus who are fighting that war as capably as they know how. Al Qaeda must be defeated, Mr. Speaker. And our best opportunity, our greatest chance to defeat al Qaeda today is to be successful in Iraq. That's what I would urge my colleagues to support, and I believe that is what the American people want us to do. I thank my friend for calling this Special Order.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi. The gentleman is right, I was having a little trouble finding that poster because I don't have that poster; but I do have a smaller copy of it. I guess you would call this a slide, Mr. Speaker.

But I did want to read this quote from the testimony of Ambassador Crocker before I call on my colleague, Colonel John Kline. Here is what Ambassador Crocker said: "A secure, stable democratic Iraq at peace with its neighbors is attainable. In my judgment, the cumulative trajectory of political, economic and diplomatic developments in Iraq is upwards, although the slope of that line is not steep. The process will not be quick. It will be uneven, punctuated by setbacks as well as achievements, and it will require substantial United States resolve and commitment."

I think the ambassador and General Petraeus served this country extremely well today in their testimony, and their facts were accurate.

Mr. Speaker, with that I want to yield to my colleague on the House Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to pick up on some of the comments that our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi, was addressing when he was talking about some of the information in the testimony that we heard today from both General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker.

I have the testimony from General Petraeus here in my hand. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would touch on a couple of the points that he made. He says that the progress our forces have achieved with the Iraqi counterparts has been substantial. He says, I see improvements in the security environment. The level of security incidents has decreased significantly since the start of the surge of offensive operations in mid-June. Civilian deaths have declined considerably. He says locals have increasingly supported our efforts. While he says al Qaeda certainly is not defeated, it is off balance and we are pursuing its leaders and operators aggressively.

This report is not all rosy. General Petraeus made the point several times during the over 6 hours of testimony that we had today that he doesn't want to look at this from a rosy standpoint or a pessimistic standpoint or an optimistic standpoint, but from a realistic standpoint; and I believe that this great leader, this great general, this man of great integrity and competence and capability did just that for us today.

One of the things that came up repeatedly during the hearing today was a reference to another report and another hearing that we on the Armed Services Committee heard about last week. General James Jones, a former commandant of the Marine Corps, the former Supreme Allied Commander Europe, was the head of a commission, a very distinguished commission, I might add, one of the most experienced I have ever seen, that had military officers and senior noncommissioned officers and experienced law enforcement personnel go over to Iraq with the charge to evaluate the Iraqi security forces.

□ 2015

Repeatedly today, and sometimes last week, we heard our colleagues saying, well, General Jones came with a very pessimistic report, and he had great concerns that things aren't going well. And one of our colleagues actually asked the question, General Petraeus, how do you square, how do you reconcile, if you will, these differences in reports.

And I remember thinking, Mr. Speaker, when I was in that Armed Services Committee hearing and listening to

General Jones and his exceptionally well-qualified colleagues, that the hearing that we were experiencing was not at all like the news reports, perhaps like the ads we saw earlier today, but was not at all like the news reports we had seen before the testimony in the Armed Services Committee.

And just as an example, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to quote just a few things that General Jones and some of his colleagues said during that hearing.

He said, our first conclusion is that the Iraqi security forces as a whole cannot yet defend the territorial integrity of Iraq. This is not necessarily an alarming conclusion, he said. They're able to do more in terms of combating the internal security threats to Iraq, and that's positive. He said, we've noted improvement in the internal security missions such as denying the safe haven to terrorists, and this progress is likely to continue in the months ahead. He says, the Iraqi security forces can bring greater security to the provinces in the next 12 to 18 months, assuming a continuing rate of progress. He said, the impact of the surge has had a tactical success for both Iraqi and coalition forces in the Baghdad region.

That doesn't sound like a pessimistic report or out of step with what General Petraeus said today. It's what we have known for some time, and I'm sure that my colleagues on their trips to Iraq have had the same experiences and reports that I have, and that is, that the Iraqi Army has been making steady progress but the police forces are in some disarray and need of major improvements.

In fact, General Jones and his commission recommended that the national police force, a relatively small group of 25,000, be disbanded and distributed to other forces and that the much larger Iraqi security police be strengthened. Again, not at all out of sync with what we heard today.

And in fact, because I had heard in previous trips to Iraq that the Iraqi Army was doing well and the Iraqi police was not doing well, I said to General Jones, well, this seems very consistent with the message that we have heard for some time. So I'm not surprised to hear you say that, and you probably weren't surprised to find that yourself.

And I thought this was amazing. He said, and I will check my notes here to make sure that I've got this right, he says, I was pleasantly surprised. I'd been going to Iraq off and on since 2003 in my NATO hat, and again, he was the commander of NATO, but I think I did not expect to see the will that I saw in the Iraqi Armed Forces to take the fight to the enemy. I did not expect to see the length and breadth of the institutions that are functioning that you need to support an emerging army, the training bases, the recruiting, the recruit training, NCO schools, counterintelligence schools, training corpsmen. All of those things exist. We know that because we saw them.

This was a very highly experienced group of four-star and three-star generals, sergeants major, police chiefs that went, and this was their assessment when they came back. And again, this seems to me very consistent with General Petraeus' report today that said, well, things are still tough over there, but the surge is working and we're making progress. I know my colleague wants to talk about some of those recommendations in a bit, but I just want to go to one more.

Mr. GINGREY. The point you made, of course, about the Iraqi national police, General Jones, you're right. I was in that same hearing with Representative KLINE last week, Mr. Speaker, and General Jones did talk about this Iraqi national police force of about 25,000 that in the past was rife with corruption, and of course, a lot of changes in the leadership, as General Petraeus pointed out today, that has occurred.

But I think it's important, and I think Mr. KLINE would agree with me, for our colleagues to understand that the press in the last week, talking about the Jones report, suggested that the entire Iraqi security force was incompetent and corrupt when, indeed, 49,000 is only about 10 percent of the 550,000 Iraqi national army and combined police force. So many of them are doing a good job, as you pointed out in the hearing today.

Mr. WICKER. If the gentleman will just yield on that, I'm glad that both of my colleagues have pointed this out, Mr. Speaker.

In just the short time that we've been hearing quotes from this Jones report, which I very much appreciated, I don't know how many times the gentleman from Minnesota read the word "progress," progress in this respect, progress in other respects, challenges of course, but progress, progress, progress, the word "success," the words "pleasantly surprised."

So it would certainly be inaccurate to say that the Jones report was totally negative and that the Petraeus report was somehow far different. So I very much appreciate the gentleman pointing that out, and I simply wanted to underscore the very optimistic words that the general had in his testimony.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman for that. Reclaiming my time, if it's mine to reclaim, I'm not sure sometimes in these Special Orders whose time it is. I think it's the gentleman from Georgia's, but I don't want to have my colleagues or Americans believe that General Jones or General Petraeus came with nothing but good news. That's not the case.

As we discussed earlier, the Jones commission recommended some major changes in how the police is trained and equipped and how it functions and how it's organized, that they were highly critical of the Ministry of the Interior and how they're functioning and, in many cases, failing to function. So there are clearly problems, but the

Jones report, the Jones commission did not come back and say that all is lost and Iraqi security forces are all failing.

In fact, that paragraph that I read quoting General Jones talking about how he was pleasantly surprised about the terrific progress of the Iraqi Army underscores that some good things are happening.

I thought it was interesting in that hearing, as my colleague from Georgia no doubt remembers, during the question-and-answer period, the former Deputy Secretary John Hamre, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, was asked some questions about what we should do in Iraq, should we leave or should we leave quickly or were things too bad. And he said in part, and again I'm quoting, but we have strategic interests that are larger than just Iraq. I mean our continued influence and presence in the region, the ability to get continued access to energy resources, providing a counterweight to Iran. We have large strategic interests. Every one of those interests would be seriously diminished if we had to crawl out of Iraq or run out of Iraq.

I think that is significant, Mr. Speaker. He made the point that when we leave Iraq, we walk out of Iraq on our terms, having defeated in large measure al Qaeda and left an Iraq with a promising future with the violence under control and political progress being made.

And so I just think that we have seen some unfortunate, really strident partisan statements made in the last week or so, and I guess it's unavoidable that people tend to go to sources that match their perspective. But I thought that the constant referring to the Jones Commission's report as somehow undermining what General Petraeus was saying or not consistent with it or indicating that all was lost in Iraq was simply not correct. And these quotes were part of many in what I thought was a very thorough, complete testimony and thorough hearing when we had the members of that commission in before the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would have time to stay, I would be glad to yield back to him as we go forward, but absolutely this Jones report last week, I couldn't believe what I was reading the next day after hearing the report and hearing General Jones, retired Four-Star General Jones, Marine, former Marine commandant, and Colonel Kline, a Marine, knows him well. He was one of 20 members of that commission.

Again, this commission was created by the Congress, by the new majority, as we passed that emergency supplemental spending bill back in February or March, 6 or 8 months ago, to tell us, you know, what's the situation with the Iraqi security force, both army and the police, and not just, as we pointed out earlier, the national police.

And almost to a person, the members of that panel who spoke, not all 20 did, but they gave encouraging news. They

pointed out the shortcomings, of course, of the national police and the Iraqi police force that was not perfect. They didn't give us some Pollyanna, glossed-over, varnished report. They told the truth. But as Colonel Kline points out, I thought it was an encouraging report. Of course, you would never have known it, Mr. Speaker, by the headlines the next day. So the gentleman may want to comment on that.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. If the gentleman would yield for just a minute, that's what struck me is that, very much like General Petraeus' testimony today, the media discussion and the political discussion and the partisan discussion that led up to the testimony simply didn't match the testimony that we heard in either of these hearings.

For example, I'm sure that many of our colleagues were surprised, and frankly I was, to hear General Petraeus say that it's tough but we're making progress, and we're making progress to the point where I'm going to recommend that we draw down our forces to the presurge level of brigade combat teams and we do it by next July. I was surprised that he put that date in there and that certainty in there when he made that statement.

He said we're going to start drawing down this year, brigade combat team is going to come back, Marine expeditionary unit is going to come back, and we're going to continue to draw down through the spring and into the summer. And that is consistent with the original intent of the surge. It was temporary with what the Iraq Study Group said about a temporary surge, and in fact, I think it's very consistent with what the Jones commission said as well.

Mr. GINGREY. In fact, I think General Petraeus said that that Marine expeditionary unit will be brought home next month.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I believe that's right.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentleman again.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield to one of my colleagues, another of my colleagues I should say, on the House Armed Services Committee, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight Investigation, a new subcommittee, a good subcommittee chaired by my good friend, majority member Dr. VIC SNYDER, and I'm speaking of the gentleman from Missouri, Representative TODD AKIN, and at this time I'd yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. AKIN. Thank you very much, and thank you for taking some time to run through a series of events that actually in the last couple of days seem a little puzzling to me, I might have to say.

My recollection is is that General David Petraeus, his credentials were reviewed over in the other body, and they took a vote as to whether or not he was the guy that we're going to put front and center to be in charge of the

entire campaign in Iraq, and he got a unanimous vote in the other legislative body. That says an awful lot of people had to vote for him to get a unanimous vote over there.

Also, as I recall, it was just not so long ago that the Democrat party, who's in charge of both the House and the Senate, made the request that in September General Petraeus would come before the legislature and would make a report as to what the findings were, would let us know how things were going. Many people were very skeptical about the reorganization, the restructuring of our war in Iraq, around the idea of the surge, but people trusted General David Petraeus. They trusted him because he has an excellent reputation and record as a soldier, but he also is a straight shooter. He doesn't sugarcoat things. He explains it the way it is.

And so it was with some sense of alarm and a little bit, I have to say, with a sense of frustration that we saw in the New York Times this calling General Petraeus where they say "General Betray Us."

What we're doing is taking somebody that before we thought they had good credibility, we're going to guess what they may say to us, we think we may not like what he has to say, so now we're going to try to destroy his reputation. I think that's a shame.

My son has served over in Fallujah. As you have mentioned, I also am on the Oversight Committee.

□ 2030

One of the things that has been consistent with every witness, week after week over a period of months, every witness we could scrounge up, conservative, Republican, liberal, Democrat, you name it, the one thing those witnesses said was, first of all, they said if we pull out of Iraq rapidly, there is going to be a huge bloodbath there.

The second thing is that the whole region will be destabilized. Everybody agreed to that. Now, some people said, well, there is nothing we can do about it, so we ought to pull out now and cut our losses. Other ones said, no, there are some things we could do about it. But everybody agreed that a rapid drawdown of troops is not what we should be doing in America.

After listening hour after hour to all these experts, I came to the conclusion of this simple fact, and that is, it is the least-cost, most logical best alternative for us to just go ahead and win the war in Iraq.

We are more than halfway, and trying to turn around and back out, make excuses and try to lose is just going to be much more costly than moving forward and doing a good job.

That's what the general has outlined today in very credible testimony. I was very thankful that he is here. I am thankful that you took the time to help us to be able to talk about this very important subject about how we proceed and the sense of good news.

There is a little light at the end of the tunnel is what it seems like to me.

Mr. GINGREY. Light at the end of the tunnel, indeed. The gentleman is right on target.

As we conclude this Special Order hour, I want my colleagues to take a good look at this ad that ran today in the New York Times.

I know it's hard for the Members to actually see the text, or you can see the picture; but, basically, what it says, the caption is: "General Petraeus or General Betray Us?" With a big question mark. Then under that: "Cooking the books for the White House."

The first and last paragraph, I will quote, let me read this to you, this is what MoveOn.org, a political action committee says.

Mr. AKIN. Isn't MoveOn.org generally associated with the Democrat Party?

Mr. GINGREY. I hope not, I say to the gentleman from Missouri. I think if you look at their funding trail though you would find that they haven't contributed probably too much support in any way, shape, or form to Republican Members.

But hears what they say about General Petraeus: "General Petraeus is a military man constantly at war with the facts. In 2004, just before the election, he said there was 'tangible progress' in Iraq and that 'Iraqi leaders are stepping forward.'"

"And last week Petraeus, the architect of the escalation of troops in Iraq, said 'We say we have achieved progress, and we are obviously going to do everything we can to build on that progress.'"

Then their final paragraph, I skipped the middle one, they say: "Most importantly, General Petraeus will not admit what everyone knows: Iraq is mired in an unwinnable religious civil war. We may hear of a plan to withdraw a few thousand American troops."

"But we won't hear what Americans are desperate to hear: a timetable for withdrawing all our troops, General Petraeus has actually said, will need to stay in Iraq for as long as 10 years."

Finally, they say, MoveOn.org, today, before Congress and before the American people, General Petraeus is likely to become General Betray Us.

In conclusion, as the majority leader said a few minutes ago, before we walked out on the steps, to commemorate and honor the American people on the sixth anniversary of that tragedy of 9/11, we did that in a bipartisan way. This is not a political argument that we bring to the floor tonight, and this business, if we are winning in Iraq, the Democrats lose. If we are losing in Iraq, the Democrats win. If we are winning in Iraq, the Republicans win. This is not about who wins politically. This is for the American people.

We are going to win. We are going to let victory have a chance. We are not just simply blindly staying the course.

In regard to this surge, this is exactly what the Iraq Study Group, Lee

Hamilton and former Secretary James Baker, recommended to the Congress; and this is what the President has done.

I commend him for it. I think we are making progress; but there is, indeed, as the gentleman from Missouri said, light at the end of the tunnel, a bright light. We need to give victory a chance.

IRAQ AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as I said a number of times in the past, it remains a tremendous honor to step here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and address you about how this dialogue that we have across America is a great big national conversation, 300 million people, many of them talking about the very subject matter that my colleagues in the previous hour have discussed, and that being the issue of the global war on terror.

Particularly, because of the hearing today, the joint hearing between the Armed Services Committee, and it used to be the International Relations Committee, and now it's the Foreign Affairs Committee, many of our colleagues in the room of the 435 Members of Congress, over 100 in the room and many others were watching television in offices and in gatherings around this Hill. There was a national conversation going on and taking place here.

As we move forward with our discussion, one of the things that happens is, as talking members of the 300 million people of America carry on their conversation, a consensus forms. As a consensus forms, it works that the constituents across the country call up and write letters and send e-mails to and stop in and see their Members of Congress and their staff.

As that goes on, if the American people are informed, if they are informed honestly and objectively, if they can get there, they can get their eyes and their hands and their ears on the facts, the American people often come to an appropriate and proper conclusion.

But it happens to be a fact that nearly every week that we have been in session in this 110th Congress, now into September, having gavelled in here in January, nearly every week, there has been at least one bill on the floor, that was a bill, I believe, sought to undermine our efforts in this global war on terror.

Except for last week, there wasn't one. Yet, the commitment that was made on the part of the request to Congress, and on the part of our military and the President, was to deliver a report here to Congress by September 15, on or before September 15, that would be an objective update on the operations in Iraq, which I will stipulate again is the most centralized, the most contested battleground in this global war on terror.

We all knew this report was coming, and today we received that report. That report was delivered here to Congress in written form and verbally by General Petraeus and by Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

Well, it's interesting that when the date of this report became something that was published and people were aware of, that's when the debate began.

We started to see an intensity of the different amendments and the resolutions that came before Congress. There are no resolution to unfund the war and call our troops home, but resolutions to try to do that without having to admit that that was the effort. As each one of those resolutions came up, by my view, each one of them one way or another failed with the American people. The argument was continuing. The debate was continuing.

The people that were invested in, let me say, cut-and-run policy and tactics in Iraq, those people thought that they were going to win this argument with the American people, before General Petraeus brought his report before Congress. That's why those resolutions came to this floor every week, in my view, and that's why the media was delivered, message after message, that there was a failed effort in Iraq.

That's also why I and many of my colleagues went to Iraq during that period of time. I made my fifth trip over there on the last weekend of July with a number of my colleagues in code name Burgess. On that fifth trip, it's hard to say, even when you go back to the same place, what was different. Because you will see sometimes different people, and you get a bit different report.

But one thing you do is get briefings, internal briefings, classified briefings, from our top officers that we have and compare the information that comes from General Petraeus and General Odierno and Ambassador Crocker and Admiral Fallon. Those people that are at the front of this that are in the lead that are calling the shots from the highest levels, all the way down through the ranks, when you walk into a mess hall and simply say is there anyone here from Iowa, pretty soon you have a table full, know their hometowns and know some of the people that they are related to and know that there is an instant contact there. We compare notes Iowan-to-Iowan and then compare those notes with the briefings that we receive from our top officers.

Close the door and have an intense, classified discussion with General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker, then come back here to this Congress and listen to the debate and watch the effort here on the other side of the aisle, the effort that I believe was invested in defeat. I will say even a significant number are still invested in defeat.

But, yet, they thought they could win the debate and convince the American people that the cause was lost in

Iraq. They thought they could win the debate before General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker delivered their report to this Congress that it would be a moot point. Whatever it was that General Petraeus might offer today, they wanted to have the American people convinced. A majority number of Members of Congress were convinced that it was a lost and failed effort in Iraq.

Well, enough information came out from that part of the world; enough Members went over and saw for themselves. Enough Members like myself went into al Anbar province that, according to General Petraeus today, was politically lost a year ago. It was a hopeless case a year ago.

As I was there the last of July, every single tribal area in al Anbar province, and I would remind the body, that that is one-third, Anbar province is one third of the geographical area of Iraq. It represented over half the deaths and violence of Iraq. It was the center of al Qaeda in Iraq. Ramadi was the center of death for the country.

Still, every single tribal area in the entire province of that one-third of Iraq was, a year ago, controlled by al Qaeda. Hamas was preaching an anti-U.S., anti-coalition, anti-Iraqi defense force message.

But as I match the maps, as the tribal zones change and the sheikhs, the tribal leaders, got together, they made a commitment to come together to kill al Qaeda with coalition forces and with Iraqi defense forces. Every single tribal zone, every sheikh in all of al Anbar province came over to the coalition side, to the side of freedom, and to the side of a free Iraqi people.

When that happened, there was a dramatic sea change in al Anbar province. If you looked at the map of the tribal zones, it was already a year ago painted red because that was al Qaeda. Today, every tribal zone in al Anbar province is green, meaning they are on our side now, they are with us. They said they want to come kill al Qaeda with us. That was their message.

When you see that kind of briefing, and you hear the briefing that came from General Petraeus today, but some of this information came out piece by piece, week by week, as there was an effort to undermine our effort in Iraq, came to a head today. Those who were invested in defeat had to make a case today that there was something weak about this military effort, something weak about the security effort, that there was something disingenuous about the delivery, about the report that was delivered today.

What I saw today was truly two highly intelligent people with worlds of experience in the Middle East, Ambassador Crocker and General Petraeus.

As I saw them with their delivery and their presentation and the facts that they laid out carefully, completely, objectively, with caution about those parts that aren't going so well, brought out before we heard the good

news about the parts that are going well, this was a stellar report that the American people can take to the bank. We don't have all the problems solved in Iraq. There is a ways to go, and maybe a long ways to go. It's not going to be easy, but it looks far better today than the news media has characterized it to be.

So there is much to be said about this momentous day today, this watershed day today, the records that were accumulated from General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. As I watched my colleagues listen to that delivery and ask their questions and probe, I can only reflect that the people that came out of this thing with their integrity intact were the ones delivering the report. The ones who were their critics were silenced in the end. That's the conclusion that I think an objective media will be reporting tomorrow.

But at this point, I recognize the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. ZACH WAMP.

Mr. WAMP. It's a privilege and an honor to come back down to the floor tonight. I want to talk on two fronts, really. The one is about Iraq and the other is the threat of radical Islam, Islamofascism, as some people call it; but I think it's important here right on the cusp of the sixth anniversary, tomorrow of 9/11, to remind our colleagues and our fellow countrymen that we are not only not out of the woods, but that these threats are grave. They are grave this week.

It's easy for everyone in this country to get lulled back into complacency or look for the comforts of our living room and shopping malls, but we face a huge growing and imminent threat from the terror itself here on our homeland.

We come, as members of the Republican Policy Committee tonight, we just left a briefing downstairs from a Lebanese Christian named Brigitte Gabrielle, who wrote a book called "Why They Hate Us." Some would ignore her, but, frankly, coming from that world and able to go on Internet chat rooms and read Arabic and know what's going on out there, we should listen. We should listen very carefully to what's happening in the world of radical Islam.

□ 2045

I think it is very ironic that some of the very people who may have said a few months ago, ooh, let's embrace the Iraq Study Group's recommendations today would say, no, too late. We even heard that today from distinguished Democrats, some of them, too late. Too late. Too late for what?

Let me tell you, this is not good news. We're at war. There is no good news. But this is positive news from the battlefield. And I think it's very ironic that in Anbar, and now spreading from Anbar originally out through the tribal groups and the provinces, where we're making real progress is among the moderates, which is kind of

the Iraq Study Group's recommendation, is convert the moderates to allies. Work to get them to stand against the radicals; work to get the tribal leaders to say, al Qaeda is the enemy and we're now with the Americans and our allied forces. That's happening. But I'll bet you some people don't want to hear that positive news. That's the reality on the ground. That's important.

I would also say, though, in a macroscale, where some of the Iraq Study Group's recommendations can be very instructive today for all of us is we need to engage moderate Islam, not just in country, in Iraq, but throughout the world, because just the sheer numbers of growth within Islam, if you read the demographics, for instance, in Mark Steyn's book, "America Alone" it's overwhelming; 5 years out, 10 years out, they swamp us in population. If you think Americans or Europeans are growing as a population, we're shrinking. We are shrinking. There's fewer and fewer of us every decade and millions and millions more Muslims.

And if the moderates within Islam won't stand against the radicals, that's why I reach out to the gentleman from Minnesota here in the House. Man, if there are freedom-loving people within Islam, where are they? They need to speak out. They need to be aggressive, and more and more of them in Iraq are because their relatives have been killed by al Qaeda. And once they kill your relative, maybe you're going to speak out. But they're intimidated; they're squashed.

Let me give you an example. Mark Steyn just tells us recently of a book that was published called "Alms for Jihad; Charity and Terrorism in the Islamic World." A guy named Jay Millard Burr wrote it. Great research in Saudi Arabia where all this oil money, and we heard this downstairs from Brigitte as well, using the Saudi Arabian oil money to promote terrorists around the world, period. It's happening. This documents, "Alms for Jihad," how they're funneling through charities. A man named Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz heads it up. The charity is called the Khalid bin Mahfouz or Blessed Relief Foundation. Millions of Saudi oil dollars into this charity that funds al Qaeda directly. This book exposes the whole thing. So you need to go to Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble to get the book. But guess what? You can't get it. It vanished. It was bought up, taken out of circulation, financially, they took the book off the market.

Let me tell you, folks, in this country, from Dearborn, Michigan to right here in Virginia, Falls Church, Virginia, oil money from the wahabis in Saudi Arabia training up young people in this country, under a global Shari'ah, Islamic law, bringing them up against America in this country today.

Listen, this, to me, at the sixth anniversary of 9/11, is a call to action for Americans who've been lulled into

complacency thinking that somehow this conflict is about Iraq. If we would just leave Iraq, all of our problems go away.

I'll say to you tonight, Mr. Speaker, this is not about Iraq. Iraq is the venue, it's the theater, it's where al Sadr is, it's where the Iranians and the Syrians have come, it's where they've recruited, it's where the fight is, but it's not about Iraq. It's about us and radical Islam at war. That's the theater. But let me tell you, it could just as easily be here tomorrow. God forbid it, but it could be just as easily here.

They have virtually taken some parts of Europe in terms of public opinion. They've challenged laws of countries and states in their courts, challenging Islamic law should take precedence, and that's what they would like to see here.

You may say, oh, he's wild; he's off the reservation. Not true. This is the way it is. They're using our very porous borders to come at us. And we're not secure. We're ignoring the threat.

Let me tell you what the Wall Street Journal editorial said last week. It said, the world's most political and religious pathologies, combine with oil and gas, terrorism and nuclear ambitions. In short, unlike yesterday's Vietnam, the greater Middle East, including Turkey, is the central strategic arena of the 21st century as Europe was in the 20th century. This is where three continents, Europe, Asia and Africa, are joined. He goes on to say, so let's take a moment to think about what would happen if the last Black Hawk helicopter took off from Baghdad International. And he goes on to talk about Iran's influence in Iraq, emboldening Iran.

Clearly, Ahmadinejad said less than 2 weeks ago he can feel the United States in retreat in Iraq, and we've lost our will. And that when we leave because they force us out, Iran is prepared to fill the vacuum. That's what he said 2 weeks ago. We can ignore it if we want to. But let me tell you, a precipitous withdrawal that the left in this country is asking for, a forced withdrawal from Iraq today, will lead to the most destabilization in the world that we have seen.

And let me tell you, this threat we face, nobody wants to hear this, is greater than the threat of Nazi Germany. And if people say we had no business in Iraq, then we had no business storming the beaches of Normandy because the Germans didn't attack us. But we knew it was our obligation, as the leader of freedom in the world, to go and save Europe from Nazi Germany. We did that. We're doing it again, and it's uncomfortable.

As I said in the previous hour, my nephew's over there. Specialist Jeffrey Watts is fighting in Iraq for us tonight. I'd love for my nephew to come home, but not until we can leave in victory; not until we leave an Iraq and a Middle East that's more secure than they were yesterday; not until we can assure the

American people that Iran is not going to rise up and seize control with nuclear weapons in the Middle East, unless you want to accept Armageddon.

I actually know how the story ends. I know the Bible from cover to cover, and I'm prepared to go on across that river at any time. But I've got to tell you, unless you're willing to just accept those ramifications, that's how high the stakes are in Iraq.

This is not George Bush's war. This is America's fight. We committed it together. Some people would like to blame it on others now and not accept the responsibility. But this is America's fight against radical Islam, and it will go on for years to come, even when Iraq is over. And there'll be a time where Iraq is not the central theater. I'm concerned we're going to be fighting radical Islam all the days of my life.

The question is, are we going to stand up, as generations before us have, and defend freedom. Are people like my nephew going to be willing to go and stand between a real threat in our civilian population, because that's what this is. And don't think for a second that it's all about Iraq. Some people dressed in pink would have you believe that. It's not true. And I'll tell you, what some of them are doing is downright un-American, and 50 years ago they'd have run them out of here on a rail.

I'd be happy to yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his delivery. And I reflect that General Petraeus' last part of his prepared testimony said, in closing, it remains an enormous privilege to soldier again in Iraq with America's new Greatest Generation. Our country's men and women in uniform have done a magnificent job in the most complex and challenging environment imaginable. All Americans should be very proud of their sons and daughters serving in Iraq today.

He also said that he believes that this is perhaps the most professional military to ever take to the field. And I recall a discussion that we had in Baghdad just about 5 or 6 weeks ago, and the statement was made that this is not only the most professional but the best military that's ever been put into the field, that's ever gone to war.

And one of the remarks they made, in addition to well-trained and brave and dedicated and well-equipped and patriotic and all of those adjectives that we use, one of the other ones was and the most perceptive. The most perceptive.

And that caught me off guard, Mr. Speaker. I didn't expect that. But I understood what that meant; to have the perception to know the difference on when to shoot and when not to shoot, when to be the ambassador and when to be the soldier. That's one of the hardest things, and sometimes a decision has to be made in a split second. And that's what they meant by the

most perceptive military to be sent off to war.

And again, much was said today, much will be said about today. But at this point, I'd be happy to yield as much time as he may consume to the chairman of the Policy Committee from Michigan, Mr. THADDEUS MCCOTTER.

Mr. MCCOTTER. I thank the gentleman from Iowa. I just want to touch on some points regarding strategic basis of the surge and some of the goals, some of what we've heard today. Your indulgence. Just touch upon some of the general themes that our Nation faces in the war for freedom.

Mistakes in the past in Iraq have been rectified under the Petraeus plan. As I have said and many here have said on our side of the aisle, in the early days of the problems of reconstruction, we believed that you could not impose democracy from above in a top-down approach, but you could unleash liberty so that it could rise up, much as the American Revolution did, to take its own shape as the Iraqi people were emancipated from the shackles of Saddam's oppression.

What General Petraeus is doing, in conjunction with Ambassador Crocker, is they are going into the towns, they're going into the tribes, they are going into the bedrock of the population of Iraq, and with the surge, providing the security to protect these individuals in these towns from the collective and systematic terror of the enemy, so that average Iraqis can make the local political shift to liberty and away from the insurgency. This is being done not simply through the utilization of military force. In fact, the success on the ground in the local levels and in the provinces and in our co-operation with the tribes is built upon and hastened by this political shift among the population.

In any counterinsurgency operation, the critical element is to separate the population from the insurgency. This can be reasoned, if we look back at some of the statements of the grand guerilla warrior, Chairman Mao. When asked about how his guerilla operations and insurgencies against the nationalist Chinese would work, he said, our people will be as the fishes amongst the water of the people. What you have to do is separate the fish from the water. This is why the critical testimony I believe we heard today was that every single Iraqi, everyone in Anbar Province and elsewhere where we are seeing progress is being given the ability to make the free, conscious decision to reach for their liberty. They are not being terrorized because of the valor of our troops and the plan and the reconstruction efforts that are flowing into these areas that show they have a transactional benefit in this transformational change. And this is hastening the local political shift which I believe undergirds our chances for victory in Iraq. This is also what undergirds the good news that we had

today, at least the welcome news that, because of the local shift amongst the population and the improved security that is concomitant to it, General Petraeus has proposed a reduction of 4,000 troops by the end of the year and a reduction of 40,000 troops by July.

Even if our Nation is so divided that we cannot unite in the cause of victory in Iraq, at least let us unite with the welcome news that 4,000 now and 40,000 of our fellow Americans citizens are going to be returning from harm's way to their loved ones.

□ 2100

To have individuals derive this as a token gesture is to accuse General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker of what the accusers themselves are doing, which is to play politics with the lives of our troops. We have seen, despite all evidence, despite what the military's assessment has been, repeated calls for the immediate withdrawal of the United States forces from Iraq. This would be irresponsible not only to our troops in the field but to the people of the region, especially the Iraqis themselves, who would be slaughtered.

When one decides to engage in a strategic withdrawal in the face of enemy, military experts generally concur that this is one of the most dangerous maneuvers forces in the field can attempt because your numbers are getting smaller as the enemy is becoming emboldened and encroaching ever closer to you. The wholesale withdrawal on a date certain, which is an arbitrary dictate from politicians in Washington, for those who believe that this is a proper course of action, I ask them to check into how the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan went, and they might reach another decision.

Further, to call this a token gesture not only belittles the sacrifices that our troops have made to reduce the security problems in these areas and to help get this local political shift, it also diminishes and belittles in a callous way the true joy these troops' families are going to feel when their loved ones come back.

To me that is something that is not a token. That is something that relieves the painful anxiety of every waking minute these families spend wondering if their loved one will come home. I highly doubt that the military mothers in my district or throughout America are ever going to consider any troop coming home from accomplishing their mission as being a token gesture.

Be that as it may, it is also critical that we understand, in this period of time, that ours is the latest generation duty bound to defend freedom in its hour of maximum danger. Thus we must ever remember, through this crucible of liberty, our course is tough but our cause is just.

The enemy is the sire of tyranny; we are the children of liberty. By heinousness invading our Nation on Sep-

tember 11, 2001, and killing 3,000 innocent American souls, the enemy announced we cannot co-exist. In consequence, it is clear a world condensed by an Internet cannot endure half slave and half free. Yes, many times in the life of our free Republic, we have been called upon to face danger and to defeat it, and we have always done this and secured it by advancing a simple elemental truth that has served us well: to ensure our own liberty, we must ensure liberty to the enslaved.

Thus in this trying time, it is imperative that we demonstrate that our devotion to liberty transcends their obsession with death. And united amongst ourselves and other free people, with prudence, we can, we must, and we will, for the sake of our children and the generations of Americans yet unnamed, we will win and we will walk our path, and we will widen the cause of human freedom.

I thank you for allowing me the chance to address you.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan, the chairman of the Policy Committee, for the insights he has shared with us tonight.

And we get those insights on a fairly regular basis here, and it is quite interesting to track the intellect of Mr. MCCOTTER and causes me to reflect upon the constitutional limitations that this Congress has, Mr. Speaker. And in spite of the bill after bill, resolution after resolution, and policy piece after policy piece that have been brought forward here by almost an average of one a week the entire 110th Congress, there are only just a few things that we have the constitutional authority to do when it comes to war, Mr. Speaker. And the first thing that Congress can do is raise an army and a navy, and that is constitutional, and by implication, an air force. It's clearly a constitutional responsibility of the Congress. And the second thing we can do is we can declare war, and that is constitutional responsibility also that is clearly defined in our Constitution. And the third thing we can do is fund the war.

But there is no provision in this Constitution for micromanaging the war. That goes outside the bounds of our constitutional authority. The management of the war and, in fact, the micro-management of the war lies within the authority, the constitutionally invested authority, of the Commander in Chief. That is why that is drafted in the Constitution in that fashion. It gives the authority to the Commander in Chief because our Founders went through a difficult Revolutionary War period. They were the Continental Congress. They were essentially a confederacy that had gathered together because of a common cause. And the Continental Congress raised the Continental Army, and the Continental Army was an army that was driven by consensus. And they understood the difficulties in fighting a war if you had

to reach a consensus before you could move forward and make a decision.

They knew you had to have a Commander in Chief, a Commander in Chief who could evaluate all the information, gather his officers around him, gather the information, and then make a definitive directive to be able to give an order to take bold action with intelligence, with military action, both offensively and defensively. They understood that. They learned some bitter lessons during the Revolutionary War. You can't fight a war by consensus. You have got to have a Commander in Chief at the top. That's why the Constitution is drafted in the fashion it is, and that's why the Constitution prohibits us from micromanaging a war.

And yet the effort continues, an effort by this Congress, to micromanage this war that's going on. I recall the Speaker and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee sitting over there in Syria negotiating with a person whom we have declared to be a state sponsor of terrorism, and the chairman of that committee announced we have a new Democrat foreign policy. Well, I would like to think that when you pledge an oath to uphold this Constitution, you also are obligated to read it and understand it. And in that are the limitations that say to us, Congress, you can raise an army and a navy and by implication an air force and you can declare war and you can fund them, but you can't micromanage that war and you can't conduct foreign policy. Both of those things are forbidden by the Constitution. They are vested in the Commander in Chief, our chief executive officer, because we have got to speak with one voice and we have got to fight with one effort. It can't be a divided effort, and it can't be an effort to undermine our military.

I would be happy to yield to the fast-thinking, slow-talking gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me before he yields to the gentleman from New Mexico, because as I join this hour Special Order and I am hearing from my colleagues, some of the brightest minds and best speakers on our side of the aisle, I don't think I could stand to go behind all four of them. So I am happy to have the opportunity. But it's awfully tough following my colleagues of the likes of the chairman of the Policy Committee and part of our leadership.

But I wanted quickly, Mr. Speaker, to again pay tribute to General Petraeus and also Ambassador Ryan Crocker. I just want to point out, in regard to Ambassador Crocker, I was reading his bio before they testified before our two committees today, the 6½- to 7-hour testimony, physically an ordeal, but Ambassador Ryan Crocker, I think a lot of people, Mr. Speaker, don't know his bio, and I don't have time to read it all. But suffice to say that in September 2004 President Bush conferred on Ambassador Ryan Crocker

the personal rank of career ambassador, career ambassador, the highest rank in the foreign service. This is the character of the man and the men that presented this report to us today.

And, basically, we cut right to the chase, and what they said is, now is not the time to quit, and give victory a chance. You can slice it and dice it any way you want to, but that is basically what they said to the 111 members of those two committees, the House Armed Services Committee, the House Committee on Foreign Relations.

And so I just want to make three points, though, Mr. Speaker, that I have thought about and that I have heard in the last couple of weeks on reasons that I have heard Members give for wanting to give up and not give victory a chance.

One of them was this business of, well, you know, it has been too great a strain and stress on our forces. We don't have enough troops back home. What if some other conflagration, war, would break out somewhere in the world in the next year, 2 years, 5 years? We don't have enough troops. We need to bring them home.

Well, Mr. Speaker, retired General Jack Keane, the Vice Chairman of the United States Army, Vice Chief of Staff, spoke to us last week as well, and he also spoke on Saturday morning on Washington Journal. I hope some of my colleagues saw that. But what General Keane said, and I agree with him so much, is, You mean to tell me that you want to accept defeat? You want to lose the war, a war of this magnitude, as the gentleman from Tennessee pointed out, and what all is at stake in regard to the Middle East in this global war on terror? You want to give up that war so that you can bring the troops home and then restock and get ready for the next potential conflict and that's a good trade-off? I don't think so.

And I want to say another thing, Mr. Speaker, that I have heard a lot of people say: We can't afford this war. We cannot afford to spend \$750 billion, almost \$1 trillion and counting, on this war because we need to rebuild our infrastructure in our country. We need to shore up our bridges. Obviously, that was in the news because of the tragic occurrence in Minnesota. Or we need more money for Head Start, or we need more money for K-12 education, or we need more Pell Grants, or we need to have more money for the food stamp program and the farm bill or whatever you can come up with.

Let me tell my colleagues, if you don't spend the money to protect the American people, what good do all these other things do us when you see what can happen and did 6 years ago today on 9/11 when over 3,000 were killed and the economic blow to this country was over \$2 trillion? You talk about destroying some infrastructure. That's what it's all about when you let your guard down and you don't stand up and be secure in this country.

And last but not least, I have heard many say, well, you know, our troops are coming home injured and many of them are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or syndrome. That's where you wake up at night, having nightmares, and maybe for the rest of your life you can't get over the mental trauma that you have gone through in a time of difficult war.

Well, let me tell you something my colleagues, as a physician Member of this body. You talk about post-traumatic stress syndrome. You think a lot of them are coming back with that now? You think that that is a tragedy? Well, you just wait and see the numbers that come back with mental illness and post-traumatic stress syndrome and nightmares and a life of anxiety when they have to come back knowing that their comrades in arms have died in vain, their buddies in the foxhole have been blown to smithereens by some improvised explosive device and they have to come home a loser. And we are not going to let that happen, and I think that is what General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker were telling us today: let's give victory a chance.

With that I will say, finally, as I conclude, who wins politically? Who cares. The American people lose if we lose in Iraq. That is what is important. This is not about the next election; this is about giving victory a chance.

□ 2115

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia. And I appreciate your passion and the rapidity with which you speak tonight, Mr. GINGREY.

I would be happy to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Mr. KING. I appreciate the work that you're doing on this issue on the eve of 9/11.

It behooves us all to remember exactly what happened. It behooves us all to remember the loss of that 1 day, and like my friend from Georgia says, over \$2 trillion in loss from America's asset base that day, and even worse, the 3,000 lives that were lost.

I went to Iraq on Thursday evening. We left after votes on Thursday, flew all night long, and ended up in Iraq on Saturday and Sunday. And we spent the night in Baghdad on Saturday night and Sunday visiting with the troops and visiting with Iraqis.

I was struck by the cautious optimism that General Petraeus related to us today, a very cautious optimism that the trend lines are favorable, that we're seeing some lessening of violence, and that's the sort of things that I found there from the troops in the country. I wanted to visit with our soldiers one on one. I had the opportunity to ride into Baghdad with troops who were going for the first time. I sat across from a Captain Serrano from Chicago and was able to talk to her about the 2-year-old daughter that waits at home for her. Her husband,

who is engaged in going through sheriff's training to hopefully work for the sheriff's department there. And we're asking the sacrifice of young men and women daily to be there and stand in the gap to stand between the terrorists and ourselves.

I have one of my friends who says, I hear America is at war. He said, America is not at war, America is at the mall, our military is at war. I think if we've made a mistake since 9/11, it's in failing to accept our responsibility individually, every single one of us, our responsibility to be engaged in this problem, because we are literally fighting for the future of freedom throughout the world. The terrorists who hate us hate our way of life. They hate our freedoms. They hate the films that come out from the West. They think they're corrupting their young people. They think that our society is decadent and that we're corrupting their cultures, so they simply want to annihilate us. That's the difference between a democracy or a republic and the tyrannical states of radical jihad that say that we will annihilate the West and we will annihilate America and Americans.

I remember, on this eve of 9/11, President Bush's three goals. It was very simple. He said, first of all, if you harbor a terrorist, you are a terrorist. But then he said we're going to do three things: We're going to uproot the terrorist training camps that exist throughout the Arab world. We're going to stop the training and the production of new radicals. The second thing he said is we're going to stop the funds that flow from supposedly legitimate compassionate organizations when actually they're funding terrorists. So we're going to uproot the training camps, we're going to stop the funding of terrorists, and finally, we're going to take the fight to the terrorists.

Now, there are many on the left who say that Iraq is not about the terrorists. The terrorists are coming in from Syria, they're coming in from around the world, they're coming in from Iran. This is the site where we are fighting terrorists. Now, maybe it began that way, maybe it didn't begin that way, but it's the way it is now. And if we walk away from that country, the general consensus is that Iraq will fall within days to the terrorists, to the terrorist state of Iran.

After Iraq falls, we're going to see difficulties in Egypt and Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar. And pretty soon you can see that every one of our friends in the Arab world is at risk. And there are people who ask me, well, how could those countries fall? Just remember back to 1979 when the shah of Iran was making great progress in westernizing that country, and in a matter of days was thrown from power, his whole government collapsed. We stood by, President Jimmy Carter stood by and did not lift a finger for our friends. And that's exactly how the falls will occur at this state.

The difference is that now we import over 60 percent of our oil, and most of it comes from the Middle East. If those countries fall, the terrorists have said they're going to cut the supply of oil off to the world. They will plunge the world economy into chaos. And that's how they're going to create the economic destruction of the United States and of the West.

I went to Israel earlier this year. They said if you leave Iraq, you will allow us to fall, because they saw the same scenario that I'm repeating, that all of our friends in the Middle East will fall, and then ultimately Israel says "we will fall." Now, my personal belief is that Israel is our first line of defense against terrorists. They've been fighting since their inception against radical jihads in the Middle East. They are our first line of defense, and if they fall, what calamity and what terrors await for us in this country? There are many who say that it's just a fabrication, that it's not true, and yet we see the signs all around us.

As I visited with our troops in Iraq over this past weekend, I conveyed one message, that we thank you. We thank you for your service and we thank you for your sacrifice. We thank you for serving your country honorably, and we thank you for serving your country well. As the gentleman from Iowa mentioned, this is one of the messages of General Petraeus, that this may be the best military the United States has ever had.

I do not believe the terrorists can win. I do believe that there are those in this Congress and those in this country who can cause this magnificent military to fail. And if they fail, I don't know where the hope for humanity comes. I don't see any other country in the world willing to fight for freedom and to fight to resist the radical jihad that threatens us all; to fight to resist and to fight to retaliate from circumstances like 9/11/01.

So that's what we're doing today is remembering those events 6 years ago, remembering what our responses were and what our anger was on that evening as we contemplated the events of the day. Both sides, Democrat or Republican, in those days were of the same mind, that we need to get to the terrorists before they get to us. I'm not sure where we came off of the rails and where we've lost so much consensus. It's not good for the United States and it's not good for the world because we're still in a very difficult circumstance fighting a very difficult battle, one that General Petraeus today said is going to be awfully hard.

It's going to be a long struggle, and it's a struggle that will be up and down. He believes our young military men and women are sufficient to the task. I do also. So I would yield back to the gentleman from Iowa by saying thanks to our troops. I hope that we all keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

God bless you to the troops, and God bless America. I thank the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico, a veteran and a C-130 pilot himself, and now a passenger in C-130s over in Iraq, year to year picking up firsthand information, veterans, active-duty personnel, just this last weekend. That's the level of involvement that you see here on the part of a lot of Members of the United States Congress, Mr. Speaker.

One of those other individuals who has had a high level of involvement is an individual who led code name Burgess in the last weekend of July over to Iraq, a number of stops, Bayji, Balad, Baghdad and Ramadi, those places come to mind. And I very much appreciate the leadership and the initiative it took to put that together and to lead that trip over there.

I would be happy to yield all but the last 3 or 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and the notation made of the exception of the last 3 or 4 minutes, and I will do my best to accommodate that.

I get asked by a lot of people, why in the world did you make this sixth trip to Iraq in July. You knew what was going on there. What did you expect to see that was going to be different? But I knew we had today's hearing coming up. I knew it was coming down the pike at us fairly fast. I knew the news hadn't been good out of the country of Iraq for about the 10 months before July. I had been in Iraq in July of 2006, had thought there was some measure of success that was beginning to be felt then, but then we had August, September and October, pretty rough months by anyone's estimation. And so I will admit, I was significantly pessimistic when we made that trip back in July.

But I knew we were going to hear from General Petraeus today. And I knew that every time I had been to Iraq before I came away learning something that I hadn't seen on CNN or even Fox News. There was information that can only be available to you by going for yourself and looking for yourself, feeling, touching, smelling the situation on the ground.

Now, I get a lot of concern from people when I go back home in the district who say, yeah, that's all great what we're doing for Iraq, but we don't know that we care that much about the Iraqis. I will tell the citizens of this country, it is in America's best interest that we succeed. Where we cannot be successful in Iraq, and you've heard other people talk about it this evening, let's be honest, it's not a political party that loses a car, it's not a Congress that loses a war, it's not a President that loses a war, it is a country that loses a war.

And again, I reiterate, it is in America's best interests that we be successful because an Iraq that is stable, an Iraq that is able to participate in its own security, an Iraq that is able to act as an ally or partner for peace in

the Middle East, what a difference 20 years from now looks like with that scenario compared with an Iraq where we leave prematurely, descends into chaos, is enveloped by Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, you name it. And the chaos that has been evident in Iraq in the past suddenly envelopes the entire Middle East, with a country like Iran emerging as the victor.

Now, the surge or the reinforcements that we talked about really since January of this year, I think it's probably worthwhile to just touch on the timeline that we've been through this year. Remember, it was January 26, not that long ago, that General Petraeus was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, sent off with a pat on the back out the door, and no sooner had the door closed behind him when the Senate began sniping and criticizing his activity. He hadn't even gotten into the country yet.

Ambassador Crocker. You heard my friend from Georgia talk about the wonderful resume of Ambassador Crocker. Many of us who were here in the spring of 2003 remember Ambassador Crocker as one of those stalwarts who came at 10:30 every morning and briefed us in the Armed Services Committee room, whether we were members of the committee or not, came with General McChrystal and briefed us every morning as to what was going on on the ground in Iraq. And I was really very grateful to Ambassador Crocker for having taken the time to do that so meticulously when the active combat phase was going on.

On May 26, we finally passed the emergency funding and Bush signed it into law. Mid-July, we took a trip over to Iraq. Again, I didn't know what I was going to see. I was prepared to accept bad news if bad news was all we were going to find. But the reality was the city of Ramadi, which was absolutely off limits to me in July 2006, that's the first place we went. After we landed in Baghdad, we got on the Black Hawk helicopter and immediately went to the city of Ramadi, had a briefing by the Second Marine Expeditionary Force, had a briefing by Colonel Jacobsen there on the ground. After the briefing, instead of just shaking hands and parting ways, we went downtown. We went to the market. We walked through the market. We talked to children in the market. We saw things for sale in the market. We talked to a man who was concerned that one of our JDAMs fell on his building. And I will tell you, it doesn't do much to drive up a deal if that happens to your building.

But nevertheless, we had a very one-on-one, close-up discussion with Iraqis on the street in Ramadi. And a year ago, no one in their right mind would have taken a Member of Congress to Ramadi; it was far too dangerous.

Now, you can imagine how gratified I was. We got back. We got a call from the White House, and we were invited down to present our findings. I even tried to downplay it a little bit; well,

there's some good news, but we've got to be careful because we've had nothing but bad news out of Iraq. And then a week later, two guys from the Brookings Institution, a place that I don't normally agree with, two guys from the Brookings Institution come up with an op-ed that says, this is a war we just might win.

Throughout all of that, for the last week we have seen the steady drumbeat of efforts to undermine the credibility of General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker prior to their hearing today.

Today, we did have the House hearing, tomorrow there is going to be the Senate hearing. Arguably, there was not a whole lot new that was discussed because everything had been leaked in the New York Times in the weeks leading up to the hearing. And General Petraeus did say that he expected there was a possibility he would bring one of the Marine units home before the end of September, and that there was reason to be optimistic if things continued on this course, there was reason to be optimistic that other troops could be brought home early, beginning in December, much prior to fulfilling the 15-month rotation that was originally posed to them.

□ 2130

That would be good news. I hope he is correct in that. I hope he is successful.

The data collection that went on leading up to this briefing, always for the last year you can pick data points out of the air wherever you want to make them. But the discipline to evaluate the trend lines is what is so critical. Today we saw those trend lines established and the data meticulously collected before those trend lines were established. Not all of them showed good news. But a preponderance of them show a positive effect that has happened in Iraq since our reinforcements arrived.

None of us can predict what is going to happen beyond the end of this year. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, as we sit here tonight on the eve of the anniversary of 9/11, I am terribly concerned about what might even happen tomorrow. None of us knows what tomorrow holds. Didn't we learn that lesson Monday, September 10 in 2001 when it seemed like there just wasn't much happening in the world? We have another tape from Osama bin Laden. We are told there is another one out there. What does all this mean? None of us knows for sure. But I reiterate that we are living in a very dangerous time. Now is the time for us not to show weakness and retreat from Iraq. Now is the time for us to redouble our resolve, make certain that we are successful, and for every one of us to give thanks that we have leaders like General Petraeus and Ryan Crocker to lead us in this perilous time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Texas. Again, I thank him for leading a codel over there. That was

one of the most meaningful that I have been on. I picked up a lot in watching the observations of my colleagues and listening to their questions, as well. It is fresh information and helped fill in a lot of the blanks we might have had going into this hearing that we had today.

I would, again, be happy to recognize the chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, Mr. THADDEUS MCCOTTER, for the balance of the time this evening.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Thank you. The gentleman from New Mexico, the good doctor from Texas and other speakers have touched upon a fundamental point. I wish to stress what General Petraeus said in terms of what an American victory would look like and then ask a question of those who would support an immediate withdrawal.

In his own letter to the troops, General Petraeus said that what we need is for the Iraqis to become solely responsible for their own security. That means a very small footprint, if at all, of the United States in Iraq militarily. Secondly, it will depend upon the local reconstruction, reconciliation, and security of the average Iraqi which will then drive the national reconciliation. Between those two pillars of local reconciliation and security will come a stable and free Iraq that no longer creates terrorists, but captures them instead.

But as we are the children of liberty, as we are a Nation that proudly proclaims it is conceived in liberty, that since every human being has an unalienable, God-given right to breathe free, to have the right to pursue life, liberty and happiness, I ask my fellow Americans who support the immediate withdrawal this: If we betray our fundamental commitment to liberty to the people of Iraq and watch them be slaughtered in the sands, what will we ever be able to offer them again to turn them from the enemy and towards us? If we betray our own profession of the desire to liberate them, to let them share in their God-given rights the same way we have, we will be ideologically disarmed in the war for freedom.

I assure you we will rue the day that we betrayed not only them but the inherited legacy that we have received from the greatest generations of Americans who preceded us and allowed us to live in the majestic America that we know today.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Michigan. He poses a question that is a difficult one for those who want to withdraw from this operation, the simple cut-and-run version, to answer. It is left for those to answer, Mr. Speaker.

I would point out also that yesterday I did a memorial dedication at Charter Oak, Iowa, for all of the military personnel that have come from that area since the beginning of the conflicts, since that area was settled. It starts with the Mexican-American War, goes to the Civil War and on up to today.

They placed out in the field there by the memorial 4,200 flags representing the lives of the Americans that have been sacrificed in this global war on terror in this quest for freedom. It also represents 50 million people that live free today that didn't at the beginning of this global war on terror.

I looked back at the dedication and the sacrifice of all of them, and I added to that dedication another sacrifice, a sacrifice that we hear very little of, and that is those over-5,000 Americans who gave their lives during a time of peace during the period between Desert Storm and the beginning of this global war on terror, 510 a year, Mr. Speaker.

I thank you for being recognized. I thank all the speakers here tonight that have spoken up for freedom.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOYD (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. CONYERS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today, the balance of the week, and the week of September 17 on account of official business.

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. LYNCH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. PLATTS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of an official delegation trip to visit American military and civilian personnel in Central Asia and the Persian Gulf, as well as humanitarian efforts in Africa.

Mr. SESSIONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. WESTMORELAND (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mr. BONNER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAYNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 17.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 17.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3233. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Witchweed Quarantine Regulations; Regulated Areas in North Carolina and South Carolina [Docket No. APHS-2006-0170] received August 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3234. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition of the Use of Specified Risk Materials for Human Food and Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle; Prohibition of the Use of Certain Stunning Devices Used To Immobilize Cattle During Slaughter [Docket No. 03-025F] (RIN: 0583-AC88) received August 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3235. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designation of the State of New Mexico Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and Poultry Products Inspection Act [Docket No. FSIS-2007-0023] (RIN: 0583-AD29) received August 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3236. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Selenium Yeast [Docket No. 1998F-0196] received August 8, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3237. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Residues of Quaternary Ammonium Compounds di-n-Alkyl (C8-10) dimethyl Ammonium chloride, Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0572; FRL-8146-7] received September 5, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3238. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in supporting Plan

Colombia, pursuant to Public Law 106-246, section 3204 (f) (114 Stat. 577); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3239. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Kentucky: Volatile Organic Compound Definition Updates [EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0650-200705(a); FRL-8464-2] received September 5, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3240. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans North Carolina: Mecklenburg County Regulations [EPA-R04-OAR-2005-NC-0004-200704(a); FRL-8465-4] received September 5, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3241. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Revised Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan for Nashua [EPA-R01-OAR-2007-0497; A-1-FRL-8463-6] received September 5, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3242. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment, Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Correction [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0046; FRL-8464-3] received September 5, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3243. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Update of Continuous Instrumental Test Methods: Technical Amendments [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0071; FRL-8448-9] (RIN: 2060-A009) received September 5, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3244. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Service Rules for the 698-806 MHz Band and Public Safety Spectrum Requirements [WT Docket No. 06-150 CC Docket No. 94-102 WT Docket No. 01-309 WT Docket No. 03-264 WT Docket No. 06-169 PS Docket No. 06-229 WT Docket No. 96-86 WT Docket No. 07-166] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3245. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Telecommunications Services Inside Wiring Customer Premises Equipment Implementation of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992: Cable Home Wiring Clarification of the Commission's Rules and Policies Regarding Unbundled Access to Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers' Inside Wire Subloop [CS Docket No. 95-184 MM Docket No. 92-260 WC Docket No. 01-338] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3246. A letter from the Chief, Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matters of Review of the Emergency Alert System; Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc.,

and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, Petition for Immediate Relief [EB Docket No. 04-296] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3247. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems And Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service [MM Docket No. 99-325] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3248. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matters of IP-Enabled Services Implementation of Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of The Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by The Telecommunications Act of 1996: Access to Telecommunications Service, Telecommunications Equipment and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements [WC Docket No. 04-36 WT Docket No. 96-198 CG Docket No. 03-123 CC Docket No. 92-105] Received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3249. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2775. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize funding for emergency management performance grants, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-322). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3508. A bill to provide automatic continuing appropriations for the Government; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 3509. A bill to provide health care liability reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ):

H.R. 3510. A bill to prohibit the imposition and collection of tolls on certain highways constructed using Federal funds; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

H.R. 3511. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2150 East Hardtner Drive in Urania, Louisiana, as the "Murphy A. Tannehill Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CARSON (for herself, Mr. WU, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. HOOLEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 3512. A bill to ensure that college textbooks and supplemental materials are available and affordable; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 3513. A bill to amend the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 to designate the Copper Salmon Wilderness and to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the North and South Forks of the Elk River in the State of Oregon as wild or scenic rivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3514. A bill to authorize workshops to eliminate gender bias for women in careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Technology, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 3515. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 3516. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 100 percent deduction for the health insurance costs of individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 3517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that distributions from an individual retirement plan, a section 401(k) plan, or a section 403(b) contract shall not be includible in gross income to the extent used to pay long-term care insurance premiums; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KELLER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. STEARNS, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MACK, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. MICA, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida):

H.R. 3518. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the "Charles H. Hendix Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3519. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3520. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, to improve the administration of justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIREs (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 3521. A bill to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

H.R. 3522. A bill to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H. Con. Res. 208. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding raising awareness of and opposition to global terrorism; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself and Mr. BOEHNER):

H. Res. 643. A resolution recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOEHNER (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DREIER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. POE, and Mr. SAXTON):

H. Res. 644. A resolution reaffirming the commitment of the House of Representatives to respecting the independent and professional reputation of General David H. Petraeus and all members of the United States Armed Forces serving in good standing in the defense of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself and Mr. MCHENRY):

H. Res. 645. A resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the House of Representatives to the professionalism and dedication of the United States Capitol Police; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MACK, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Ms. FOX, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California):

H. Res. 646. A resolution celebrating the 220th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GINGREY:

H. Res. 647. A resolution commending General David H. Petraeus for his exemplary service to the United States and for his leadership as Commander of the Multi-National Force-Iraq and condemning in the strongest possible terms the reprehensible efforts of certain persons questioning the honesty, integrity, and service of General Petraeus; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ISSA:

H. Res. 648. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

185. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 361 urging the Congress of the United States to address the economic impact of interchange fees and merchant discount charges and develop clear and concise disclosure to consumers and retailers; to the Committee on Financial Services.

186. Also, a memorial of the Cabinet of the State of Florida, relative to a Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to support a National Catastrophe Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

187. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 calling on the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to fully fund the federal government's share of special education services in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

188. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 89 memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact H.R. 2927, which responsibly balances achievable fuel economy increases with important economic and social concerns, including consumer demands; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

189. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 59 memorializing the Congress of the United States and the United States State Department to increase efforts to halt the violence and to provide humanitarian assistance in the Darfur Region of Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

190. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 63 memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to prohibit federal funds from going to any business or entity that works with the Sudanese Government; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

191. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Missouri, relative to a Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to repeal the REAL ID Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

192. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134 memorializing the Congress of the United States and urging the respective executive branch departments to take a proactive role in assisting the communities of New Orleans East in protecting their health and safety and in promoting economic development; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

193. Also, a memorial of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relative to a Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to designate the Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds as no discharge zones; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

194. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137 memorializing the Congress of the United States to provide funding for the Louisiana University of Medical Services, Inc., College of Primary Care Medicine; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor.

195. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Reso-

lution No. 115 memorializing the Congress of the United States to vote in favor of H.R. 1229, "Non-Market Economy Trade Remedy Act of 2007"; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Rules.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 138: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GOODE, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 303: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 507: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 526: Mr. HODES.
H.R. 542: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 549: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 552: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 601: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 621: Mr. WAMP, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 695: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 743: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 748: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 823: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. LOEBACK, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 997: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 1117: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 1120: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1125: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. NUNES, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1154: Mr. STEARNS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1193: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 1216: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1222: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 1223: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 1225: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 1275: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1283: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1303: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 1343: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1366: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 1386: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1464: Mr. WOLF, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 1524: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1537: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1567: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1655: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1687: Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 1691: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1740: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1755: Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 1843: Mr. SALAZAR and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 1866: Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 1877: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 1927: Mr. JONES of North Carolina and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1974: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1992: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2027: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 2040: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. WATT.
H.R. 2053: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. McHENRY, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. McGOVERN.
H.R. 2060: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 2086: Mr. MATHESON and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 2138: Mr. CARDOZA and Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 2167: Mr. McDERMOTT and Mr. McGOVERN.
H.R. 2188: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2233: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2265: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2295: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 2303: Mr. GONZALEZ and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 2327: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 2329: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mr. SAXTON.

H.R. 2376: Mrs. MYRICK and Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 2384: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 2522: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2566: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2567: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2805: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2821: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2827: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 2833: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2849: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 2880: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 2881: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2895: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KIND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 2904: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3012: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 3029: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 3090: Mr. GOHMERT and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 3143: Mrs. CUBIN and Mr. HILL.

H.R. 3148: Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 3189: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 3207: Mr. GILCHREST.

H.R. 3219: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 3223: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 3262: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 3282: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 3317: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 3326: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 3334: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 3337: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. McGOVERN.

H.R. 3355: Mr. JINDAL.

H.R. 3357: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, and Mr. WU.

H.R. 3381: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 3412: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 3430: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3439: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3501: Mr. DOGGETT.

H. Con. Res. 122: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Con. Res. 176: Mr. ARCURI.

H. Con. Res. 189: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. PASCRELL.

H. Con. Res. 200: Mr. McGOVERN and Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Con. Res. 203: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. UPTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. SAXTON.

H. Res. 111: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H. Res. 118: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. PEARCE.

H. Res. 282: Mr. McINTYRE.

H. Res. 407: Ms. WATSON.

H. Res. 499: Mr. TERRY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. KAGEN.

H. Res. 525: Ms. WATSON and Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Res. 565: Mr. PLATTS.

H. Res. 588: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H. Res. 604: Mr. MURTHA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BUYER, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. FORBES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. HUNTER, Ms.

GRANGER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. CASTOR, and Mr. AKIN.

H. Res. 620: Ms. WATSON.

H. Res. 625: Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. STARK.

H. Res. 626: Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. STARK.

H. Res. 641: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. JORDAN,

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SALI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DENT, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KELLER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota,

Mr. MACK, Mrs. BONO, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. HAYES, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. POE.

H. Res. 642: Mr. REYES, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.